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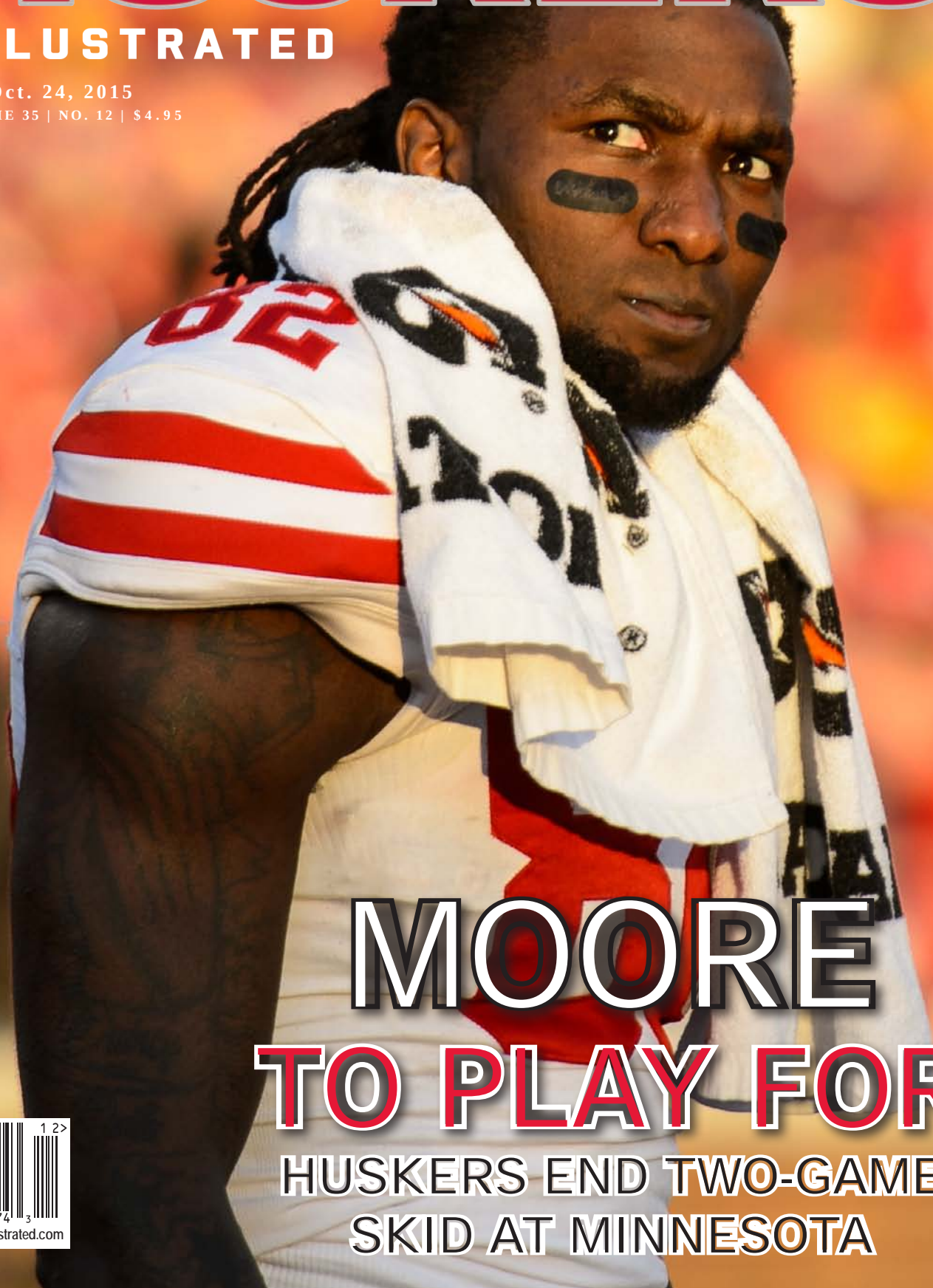
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HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

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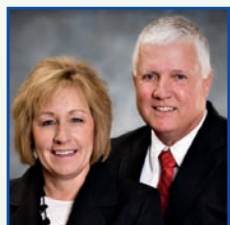
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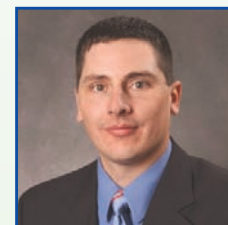
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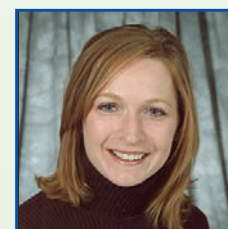
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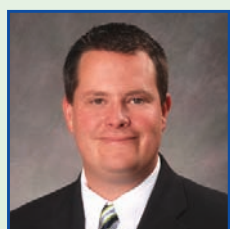
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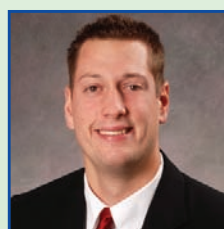
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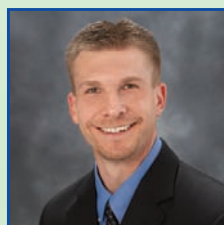
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2015 HUSKER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Results
Sat, Sep 05	BYU	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 12	South Alabama	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 19	Miami	at Miami, Fla.	-
Sat, Sep 26	Southern Miss	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 03	Illinois*	at Champaign, Ill.	-
Sat, Oct 10	Wisconsin*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 17	Minnesota*	at Minneapolis, Minn.	-
Sat, Oct 24	Northwestern*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 31	Purdue*	at West Lafayette, Ind.	-
Sat, Nov 07	Michigan State*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Nov 14	Rutgers*	at Piscataway, N.J.	-
Fri, Nov 27	Iowa*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Dec. 05	Big Ten Championship*	at Indianapolis, Ind.	-

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BALL FINALLY BOUNCES NU'S WAY THIS YEAR Huskers avoid 0-3 conference start with 48-25 victory

DURING THE SECOND TO LAST PLAY OF THE FIRST QUARTER AND NEBRASKA FACING A THIRD AND FOUR AT ITS OWN 15-YARD LINE, HUSKER FULLBACK ANDY JANOVICH GOT THE CALL AND HE GOT HIT AND FUMBLING THE BALL FORWARD.

The way this season has been going for Nebraska, Minnesota recovered the ball and went in for a score, right?

Actually on this beautiful fall day in Minneapolis, the ball bounced perfectly up into the air and Janovich regained the ball and bulled ahead for a first down.

Was this a sign the ball is finally starting to bounce the Huskers' way after a season that has seen the other happen way too often?

The Huskers (3-4) went on to grind out a 16-play, 63-yard drive that ate 6:32 off the clock and was capped off by a 45-yard field goal by Drew Brown to go up 17-7 early in the second quarter and would not look back in winning 48-25 for the first time over the Golden Gophers since the 38-14 victory in Lincoln back in 2012.

De'Mornay Pierson-El looked like the returner and receiver who set the conference on fire as a freshman. He also benefitted from a fortuitous bounce on his fourth quarter touchdown reception that he tipped away from two Minnesota defenders to himself.

Back from injuries, Vincent Valentine and Josh Banderas were flying around on defense making plays.

By gosh, this Nebraska team on Saturday looked like a bunch who could win all the rest of the games on its schedule - you know the team that is really four plays and a couple minutes away from being 7-0.

And some of the players were talking about winning out after the game.

"We are 1-0 in our second half of the season," defensive end Greg McMullen said.

Let's not go crazy yet, but with this season any victory should be celebrated and the fact that players are still optimistic should be applauded.



"There was a lot of energy and excitement in the locker room," McMullen said. "It's been a while."

Things are far from perfect.

Minnesota quarterback Mitch Leidner was a perfect 10-for-10 passing in the first quarter for 96 yards and finished the first half 16 of 17 for 156 yards. Even against Nebraska's pass defense, this is an alarming pass completion percentage.

Twice in the first half, Nebraska had golden chances to score in Minnesota and came away with no points. When NU got the ball first in the third quarter with a 10-point lead, the Huskers went three-and-out.

This time, the Husker defense held, but then Minnesota punted the ball to the one-yard line. Again Nebraska answered with a 10-play, 99-yard scoring drive that ate 5:47 off the clock and gave the Huskers a commanding 31-14 advantage.

Even when Nebraska's defense held the Golden Gophers scoreless in the third quarter and the offense went up 38-14 early in the fourth quarter, Huskers fans didn't feel completely comfortable.

Especially with the porous pass defense gave up a quick score and two-point conversion to make it 38-22.

Then the offense went four and out after picking up a first down on the ground on its first play. Minnesota came back to kick a field goal to close to within 38-25 with 6:49 left. After Terrell Newby recovered an onside kick near midfield, the Nebraska sidelines was penalized 15 yards for an infraction, backing the Huskers up 15 yards.

Two-straight running plays set up a third and six. The past two weeks, Nebraska has had third down and seven plays that didn't go their way. This time, Tommy Armstrong Jr. heaved up a deep ball that Jordan Westerkamp came down with to keep the drive going and set up another Brown field goal. Two late interceptions iced the game.

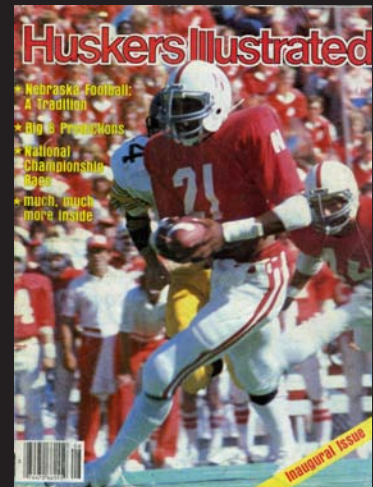
No crazy endings this week. It's nice to finally have the ball bounce NU's way.

"We want to keep it going next week for Northwestern," McMullen said.

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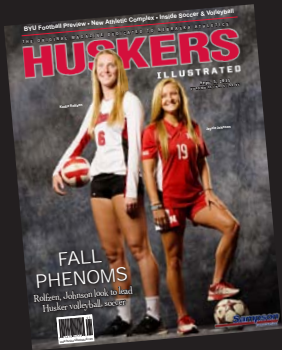
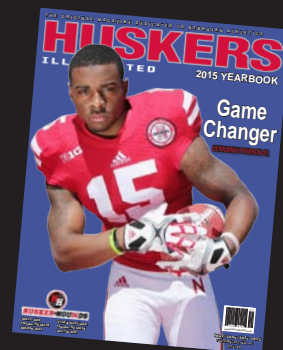
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HUSKERS

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Editor, General Manager: **DARREN IVY**
darrenivy@huskersillustrated.com

Photographer: **JOE MIXAN**

Photographer: **JIM RASH**

Photographer: **MITCH OTTO**

Recruiting Writer: **MIKE SCHAEFER**

Beat Writer: **MICHAEL BRUNTZ**

Beat Writer: **LANNY HOLSTEIN**

Beat Writer: **SHANE G. GILSTER**

Contributing Writer: **DOUG GRIFFITHS**

Contributing Writer: **BRIAN ROSENTHAL**

Contributing Writer: **BOB HAMAR**

Contributing Writer: **TERRY DOUGLASS**

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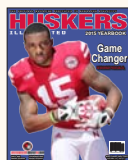
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The next Huskers Illustrated edition, featuring the Purdue preview and Northwestern recap will mail Oct. 26.



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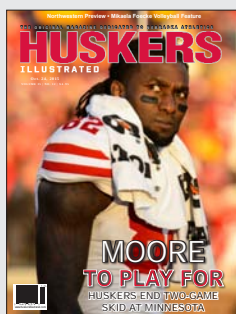
BY **LANNY HOLSTEIN**

Versatile defensive lineman Greg McMullen has been forced into action at not only defensive end, but also defensive tackle this season due to injuries.

2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 5	BYU	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	L, 33-28
SEPT. 12	SOUTH ALABAMA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7 P.M.	W, 48-9
SEPT. 19	@MIAMI	MIAMI, FLORIDA	2:30 P.M.	L, 36-33 OT
SEPT. 26	SOUTHERN MISS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	W, 36-28
OCT. 3	@ILLINOIS	CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS	2:30 P.M.	L, 14-13
OCT. 10	WISCONSIN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	L, 23-21
OCT. 17	@MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA	2:30 P.M.	W, 48-25
OCT. 24	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	ESPN2
OCT. 31	@PURDUE	WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA	TBA	TBA
NOV. 7	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6 P.M.	TBA
NOV. 14	@RUTGERS	PISCATAWAY, N.J.	TBA	TBA
NOV. 27	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

Nebraska wide receiver Alonzo Moore had his best game as a Husker, catching four passes for a career-high 84 yards. His 32-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter gave Nebraska the lead for good at 14-7 as the Huskers broke a two-game losing streak to Minnesota and improved to 3-4 on the season. The win also helped the Huskers avoid an 0-3 start to the Big Ten season and has players optimistic for the rest of the 2015 season.

PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

NU is in good position with several 2015 top targets

Nebraska's 15-member class is more than halfway done but there's still a lot of talent out there for the Nebraska coaches. The Huskers are in good position with several of the top targets on the team's board:

Jaleel Laguins, four-star linebacker, Oconee County High School, Ga. - The linebacker visited Lincoln for the Wisconsin game and has been tweeting using the GBR hashtag since his visit. After the trip he told HuskersIllustrated.com he thinks Nebraska is a great fit going forward and he's really pleased with what he found in Lincoln. It doesn't hurt that he's a big fan of linebackers coach Trent Bray, who is having a great season, despite upheaval at the linebacker spot.

Laguins is committed to Georgia but is planning on taking several other visits. Nebraska has done a good job of positioning itself to be the alternative to Georgia at the moment. Should there be any sort of change with the Bulldogs the Huskers are in line to reap the benefits.

Darian Owens, four-star wide receiver, Fresno Clovis West High School, Calif. - Nebraska hosted this UCLA commit in early September for the UCLA game. The Huskers really impressed Owens according to multiple people who interacted with the receiver during his time on campus. The Huskers have a big need for playmakers on the outside and that was a big emphasis during Owens' visit to Nebraska.



Darian Owens

The Huskers also have a good tie-in from Keith Williams. The two knew each other from outside of recruiting and Owens regards Williams as a strong coach and a good friend. Expect Nebraska to continue to work this relationship - perhaps even a visit by Williams here in November. Much like Laguins, Nebraska is positioning itself really well should Owens move off the Bruins.

Matt Farniok, four-star offensive tackle, Sioux Falls Washington High School, S.D. - This offensive tackle has been at the top of the team's board since January. Nebraska wants to win the 500-mile radius and there's no bigger uncommitted prospect than Farniok inside that parameter. The lineman is enjoying a strong senior season and continues to add more and more

attention from schools.

Farniok is a fascinating situation as both his older brothers play or have played college ball at two different schools. It looks like Farniok will pick a team different from his brothers as well. Nebraska assistant Mike Cavanaugh has been heavily involved in recruiting Farniok and the Huskers are interested in his younger brother Will. Every indication here has been Farniok plans to make a decision after his high school all-star game in January. The Huskers still appear to be the team to beat.

Isaiah Simmons, four-star safety, Olathe North High School, Kan. - The Huskers finally got a glimpse of Simmons on campus this past weekend against Wisconsin. The recruit from the Kansas City suburbs is highly regard-

ed in the football offices, but Nebraska wasn't sure what his level of interest was because of the different approach he takes to recruiting. Nebraska can now build off a strong visit and continue to sell opportunity in the secondary.

The Huskers are looking for big, athletic safeties and few are going to be much bigger than Simmons. He looks like he could slide down to linebacker in a pinch, but his highlights show a guy who can run effortlessly, so he'll still be effective in the passing game. Nebraska wants Simmons badly, much like Farniok because he's another key player inside the 500-mile radius.

Mique Juarez, five-star linebacker, Torrance North High School, Calif. - This name, unlike the other four, is off a recruit that hasn't yet been to campus. The Huskers have been linked to the five-star linebacker since the summer when he announced his intentions of taking a visit to Nebraska. That hasn't come to fruition yet, but given his recent decommitment from USC there is certainly a greater opportunity for Nebraska.

The Huskers appear deadset on adding another top end linebacker. Few in the country - if any - are better than Juarez. He runs well and wouldn't be a liability in either pass or rush defense. More importantly, adding a player like Juarez would stir up a ton of interest in Southern California, a place the Huskers appear to be really gaining a foothold with the work of the

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

Younger Foster waiting patiently for turn on line



Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz

When looking at qualities most prized in a potential standout football player, one often gets overlooked: patience.

In the instant gratification, win-now nature of college football, it can be tough for players who find themselves not starting or seeing significant playing time, especially those who were highly-recruited prior to entering college.

Nebraska offensive lineman Jerald Foster is looking big picture when it comes to his first season of being available to play. The highly-regarded redshirt freshman hasn't taken many snaps at guard this season, but he said he's not going to complain about his situation because he knows there is still much work to be done to get on the field.

"I am always ready to go in," Foster said. "Coach calls my number then I'll be out there and giving everything I've got. I'm sticking with the program. I'm not going to cry about where I'm at right now. I know next year I'll definitely have a shot, so I'll keep pushing forward."

Foster, a former three-star offensive line recruit from Lincoln Southeast, had offers from a number of Pac-12 and SEC schools out of high school, but chose to stay close to home where his brother Trey was already on the football team.

A punishing run blocker, Foster was the scout team co-offensive player of the year last season during his redshirt year.

But even that accolade isn't a ticket to instant playing time.

Foster said he knows the deficiencies in his game, and is working hard to correct them.

Foster has worked this fall to improve his pass protection under line coach Mike Cavanaugh and feels as though he has made significant strides in that part of his game.

"Coach has been teaching me up to work on my pass pro and work on my game," he said. "I feel like throughout the work we do I feel like I'm definitely getting better. I'm still working hard in the weight room. All that's

contributing to how I am as a football player.

"In high school we didn't work on it. Everyone knows that. In high school you don't think about pass pro, you're just a run block dude. I know I can run block. I'm alright with that. I'm always thinking about how I can improve on my pass pro and make myself a better player."

Back to that patience thing. In the week leading up to Nebraska's game with Minnesota, starting guard Chongo Kondolo went down with an infected toe and couldn't practice.

Despite being listed as the second team guard at both the right and left guard positions, Foster was still getting second team reps, as Chris Long practiced with the first group for a couple days.

"We're just trying out what we've got right now," Foster said. "Chris Long was playing Tuesday. I'm happy for him. He's a walk-on redshirt senior. He puts out the effort every single day. He's getting a chance. I'm going to guess I'll get a chance down the week."

Things have been tough for Nebraska's offensive linemen this season as the Huskers have opted not to rotate much from the top five starters this season.

Zach Sterup started against Minnesota in place of the injured Nick Gates, but for the most part, the starting five have played most of the season.

Sterup himself has needed to be patient. A former four-star recruit who has battled injuries during his career, Sterup was beat out by Gates in fall camp and had to wait for his opportunity.

"Nick came out and earned it," Sterup said. "I'm not taking anything from that kid. It was a struggle. At the end of the day, I wanted to be here for my teammates. I was still practicing hard and wanted to bring energy for my teammates and make this team as good as it can be."

Sterup's example is a good one for players like Foster. Injuries will happen. There will be plenty of future playing time for talented players like Foster who put their heads down and keep working.

Sometimes, a little patience pays off, too.

"I am always ready to go in. Coach calls my number then I'll be out there and giving everything I've got. I'm sticking with the program. I'm not going to cry about where I'm at right now. I know next year I'll definitely have a shot, so I'll keep pushing forward."

**~ Jerald Foster
Nebraska lineman**



10 questions

with Greg McMullen

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Jimmy Rash

Q: How did you feel playing defensive tackle against Wisconsin for the first time in college?

A: “I felt fairly good at what I was doing, kind of knew what was going on. I just wish it would have been a better outcome, you know?”

Q: How much experience to you have playing defensive tackle in your career?

“Not much other than that one game. My redshirt year, I played a little bit of it on scout team. I kind of got the feel for it then when they needed me to be inside, but not really since then.”

Q: Did you go to the coaching staff and ask if they needed you there? Or did they come to you?

“It was just one of those things where that’s what was needed. You’ve got Vincent Valentine, who was probable. You have somebody like Kevin Williams, who was out. And Kevin Maurice, who was also out. It was just one of those things where it’s, ‘Hey, we need you to play inside,’ because we were very slim on D-tackles. So it’s, ‘OK, no problem.’ That’s all it really was.”

Q: Is that something that we will see the rest of the season?

“Hopefully, I’ll be able to do a little bit of both. That’s what I did throughout the game, playing mostly defensive tackle, but then end as well. Hopefully that’s what goes on the remainder of the season.”

Q: What’s the biggest change for you playing tackle?

“The double teams are by two bigger guys rather than at defensive end when you have a tight end, which may not be a big guy, and a tackle. That’s really it. Otherwise, it’s all football.”

Q: Do you like standing up and floating around before the snap as a tackle?

“We can do the same thing with the ends as well. We are just trying to do something different, get a different pressure going on, but it was different for me because I’ve never stood up.”

Q: What problems does that create for the offense?

“Doing stuff like that just makes it harder for the offensive line to dictate who’s going where, what stunt is going to be run. Just in general, it’s easier for a defensive lineman to get more forward push.”

Q: How much more physical is the Big Ten than what you see in non-conference play?

“Once you start to get into the Wisconsin, the Minnesota, the Iowa, all those teams who ram it with double tight ends, straight powers and stuff, of course it becomes a more physical game. There is less spread, less of the finesse game. It’s part of the game. It’s what we signed up for.”

Q: Did the physicality of the league kind of hit you the first time you went through it?

“It’s just one of those things where you redshirt, you don’t play a whole year on scout team, you go through a spring ball, and then you realize after fall camp that you have a chance to get in. You mentally prepare yourself for those kind of things, but it was my first time playing up at Minnesota a couple years ago, and it was a heck of an experience.”

Q: As one of the older guys on the team, have you felt obligated to speak up as a leader during the rough start?

“Yes and no. I’m not really a vocal kind of guy. I mean, I don’t really voice my opinions too much, but I do try to keep the team together when I see stuff not going accordingly to what we should or shouldn’t be doing. But for the most part, we talk, and we know what we need to do to continue to go up that stepping-stone to get what we’re looking for.”

Nebraska 48, Minnesota 25



Nebraska running back Terrell Newby runs away from the Minnesota defense on his 69-yard touchdown run.

A New Beginning

Huskers start second half of year at 1-0

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photos by Michael Spomer

As the clock struck zero and Mike Riley walked across the field to shake opposing coach Jerry Kill's hand, you could see the massive sigh of relief from Nebraska's head man.

Saying he needed this one would be an understatement. Four losses by a total of 11 points, three leads blown in the final 10 seconds of the ball game, and the worst start for Nebraska football since 1959 (2-4) have a way of putting pressure on the head coach.

That noise was quieted, a least for a week, by Nebraska's solid 48-25 win over Minnesota Saturday.

"The thing that I feel the best about is that they answered the bell again," Riley said. "The players came back after all of those games, and stayed together as a team, played hard today and they won. Hopefully we just keep that going, but I'm really proud of them for that because that's not easy for anybody, especially young people."

With the way the season had gone up until this point, there was nary an easy moment for the Huskers throughout the game. Even with a 38-14 lead in the final quarter, visions of previous collapses went through the mind of Nebraska's coach. A pair of interceptions from Nate Gerry and Joshua Kalu on the final two defensive drives put those visions to bed.

"It was definitely all of that," Riley said afterward. "There was a hint there in the fourth quarter of this thing getting close, especially when they made the two-point conversion."

Minnesota quarterback Mitch Leidner finished off an 8-play, 75-yard touchdown drive with a one-yard run and tossed another pass to K.J. Maye for the two-points, pulling Minnesota to down just 38-22 with 11:52 in the game. It tacked on another three points on its next possession to make it 38-25, but that's as close as things would get.

The Husker offense found that elusive rhythm Riley and of-

fensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf were looking for the past few weeks. Four hundred and sixty-four yards split evenly between the run and the pass had Minnesota on its heels the whole game.

"I think for this team we've had some moments throughout the year, but that's a good picture of what we need balance-wise,"

Riley said. "I glanced at the yardage deals on the scoreboard and we maintained pretty good balance in the run and pass all game long. That probably was a key for us."

Langsdorf, who's come under some heat recently for his play calling, earned the praise of his boss for his efforts.

"I thought he did an outstanding job all day with the mixture of things that we had going," Riley said. "I was glad to see some screens involved today. We can still do more, but we got a couple good looking screen passes, some things that helped us like that."

Defensively, it was a similar outcome to Wisconsin. The Huskers came into the game trying to take away the run and make a questionable quarterback throw the football. They succeeded in taking away the run, allowing just 65 yards on the ground, but Leidner did throw for 301 yards on 40 passes.

"That's huge. I mean, that's the idea," defensive coordinator Mark Banker said of taking away the run. "We forced Wisconsin into 50 throws too, but at the same time, we need to continue to improve in the backend. We'll continue to work and keep tweaking things, continue to try to put players in better positions."

On the whole, it was a major victory for the embattled Husker football program and its first-year coach. The dogs might be after him again next week if the team doesn't beat Northwestern, but at least they are in their kennels for a while.

"Today, in a lot of ways, was a real good picture of how we have to play to win," Riley said.



De'Mornay Pierson-Eli



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Jordan Westerkamp was happy to have De'Mornay Pierson-El back in the lineup as he made six catches for 76 yards.

Husker receivers heal up, make an impact

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

Nebraska receivers displayed signs of starting to realize the unit's full potential during a 48-25 victory at Minnesota.

"We have so many weapons, offensively," said senior wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp, who had a team-high six receptions for 76 yards. "It was nice to finally put a whole game together and show this conference that we do have playmakers all over the board."

Alonzo Moore was one of the key contributors for the Cornhuskers, catching four passes for a career-high 84 receiving yards against the Gophers. The marquee moment came with 3:50 left in the first quarter as he made a sliding reception for a 32-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Tommy Arm-

strong Jr., giving Nebraska a 14-7 lead.

It was Moore's second-consecutive game with a TD reception. While that fact might indicate that Moore is becoming a more significant part of Nebraska's offense, the 6-foot-2, 195-pound junior said he's happy with whatever targets come his way.

"I play the role that the coaches put me in," Moore said. "I just want to help my team, play my role and play it well."

Armstrong finished 18-of-26 passing for 261 yards and three TDs. The junior had completions to six players with three different Huskers catching scoring passes as tight end Cethan Carter had a 10-yard TD reception and wide receiver De'Mornay Pierson-El had an impressive 14-yard TD catch, going high in the air and tipping the ball to himself in the end zone.

After missing the first four games of the season with a foot injury, Pierson-El is also starting to make an impact for Nebraska. He had a 42-yard punt return in the first quarter and finished with three receptions for 31 yards.

"It was great to see him get the punt return early and get involved," Nebraska coach Mike Riley said of Pierson-El. "I think that gave him a good feeling."

Riley said Pierson-El's involvement in offense will continue to grow as the season progresses.

"He is still not totally into everything that we're doing right now, so I don't think he's yet as good as he will be, for sure," Riley said. "It's still definitely a work in progress, but it is very good to have him back and see him make some plays today."



Defensive back Josh Kalu returns a fourth quarter interception for a touchdown as Chris Jones escorts him to the endzone.

Defense controls run, makes stops in end

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY MICHAEL SPOMER

After averaging 276 yards rushing in wins over Nebraska each of the past two seasons, Minnesota's ground game was kept under wraps by the Cornhuskers in their 48-25 victory.

Nebraska's defense limited the Gophers to 65 rushing yards on 26 attempts, while snapping a two-game losing streak in the series. Although the Cornhuskers yielded a 300-yard passing day, defensive coordinator Mark Banker said making Minnesota one-dimensional on offense was the plan.

"That's huge. That's the idea," Banker said. "We forced Wisconsin into 50 throws. At the same time, we need to continue to improve on the back end.

"(In our) base package, we're coming along coverage-wise."

Nebraska defensive tackle Vincent Valentine said the Huskers simply aimed to be more physical than Minnesota's offensive line.

"We just love dominating up front," Valentine said.

It wasn't that the defensive front necessarily made many tackles — Valentine and defensive end Greg McMullen had one apiece, while defensive end Jack Gangwish had three tackles and defensive tackle Maliek Collins had two — but it was able to control Minnesota's offensive line.

"We told them we were going to get after them every play," Valentine said. "Their O-line, they were talking trash, so we told them we were going to get after them."

Trailing 38-22 after quarterback Mitch Leidner's one-yard run and a successful two-point conversion, Minnesota drove to the Nebraska 16-yard line. However,

the Huskers' defense stiffened, holding the Gophers to a 39-yard Ryan Santoso field goal and leaving NU with a 38-25 lead with 6:49 to play.

Leidner finished 26-of-40 passing for 301 yards and a touchdown, but was intercepted twice in the final 2:10. That included cornerback Joshua Kalu's 41-yard interception return to put the game away and another pick by Nate Gerry with 1:37 remaining.

"When your back is up against the wall, you can't just let somebody keep trying to punch you in the face," McMullen said. "We stopped them and held them to a field goal, and then after that we get a turnover — two of them, actually — and one of them returned for a touchdown.

"We have to do our job and do what we have to do because at the end of the day, it's all on us."

Husker Drive of the Game



Alonzo Moore makes one of his two clutch catches on the scoring drive.

99-yard drive puts Gophers away

STORY BY SHANE G. GILSTER | PHOTO BY MICHAEL SPOMER

It was just what the doctor ordered. With the end zone right at their back, the Huskers put together their best drive of the year by going 99 yards for a game changing touchdown.

Nebraska was holding onto a 24-14 lead and could not afford to punt the ball away to the Gophers as the Blackshirt defense had trouble stopping Minnesota quarterback Mitch Leidner's passing game.

So it was up to the NU offense to at least get some first downs, melt some clock, and regain some field position before punting the ball away. But what they got instead was even better, increasing their lead to seventeen points at 31-14.

Nebraska offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf called a nice mix of run/pass plays on the drive, giving quarterback Tom-

my Armstrong Jr. some high percentage throws to complete.

"We had to get out of a deep, deep hole," said Langsdorf. "The second run of that drive was big because it gave us some breathing room. And then from there we just made some plays by mixing it up."

Armstrong Jr. was a perfect 6 of 6 passing for 77 yards, throwing to four different receivers. All of his throws were on the money which made the drive even more impression to watch.

"The 99-yard drive was importance to us," said Armstrong Jr. "We had to be physical. And I think that the routes we ran early kind of sparked us as a whole, on defense and offense. The offensive line had the sense of urgency. We made plays when we needed to. We executed when we needed to. We kept our eyes on third down."

Breakdown – Play by Play

1-10 NEB 1: Andy Janovich rush for 1 yard
2-9 NEB 2: Imani Cross rush for 7 yards
3-2 NEB 9: Tommy Armstrong pass complete to Jordan Westerkamp for 5 yards, 1st down
1-10 NEB 14: Tommy Armstrong pass complete to Alonzo Moore for 20 yards, 1 down
1-10 NEB 34: Brandon Reilly rush for 14 yards (10-yard penalty), no play
1-20 NEB 24: Tommy Armstrong pass complete to De'Mornay Pierson El for 13 yards
2-7 NEB 37: Tommy Armstrong pass complete to Alonzo Moore for 18 yards, 1st down
1-10 Minn 45: Tommy Armstrong rush for 25 yards, 1st downtwo
1-10 Minn 20: Tommy Armstrong pass complete to Jordan Westerkamp for 11 yards, 1st down
1-G Minn 9: Terrell Newby rush for loss of 1 yard
2-G Minn 10: Tommy Armstrong pass to Cethan Carter for 10 yards, touchdown
1-G Minn 3: Drew Brown extra point attempt good

Drive Stats

Drive started on the NU 1-yard line
10:03 left in the 3rd quarter
10 plays, 99 yards, 5:47
4 rushing plays, 6 passing plays
32 yards rushing, 77 yards passing, 4 first downs (10 yards of penalties)

Player of the Drive

Alonzo Moore was on the receiving end of two big pass plays. The first came on a roll out bootleg pass from Tommy Armstrong Jr. for a nice 20-yard completion.

Then two plays later Armstrong connected with Moore again for 18 yards which pushed the Huskers across midfield to the Minnesota 45-yard line.

"The one-on-one plays with Alonzo was big," NU offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said. "They were really loading it up front on us on defense and we felt Alonzo against their cornerback was going to be a good matchup."

Play of the Drive

Facing a second and goal from the Minnesota 10, Armstrong found tight end Cethan Carter open in the flat on the right side. Carter made the catch, turned up field and dived for the touchdown pylon. The officials marked him out at the one-yard line but after further review, the call was reversed and a touchdown was called. The score gave NU some breathing room at 31-14.

Nebraska 48, Minnesota 25

Oct. 17, 2015 at TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis
Attendance: 54,062

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Nebraska	14	10	7	17	48
Minnesota	7	7	0	11	25

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	10:14	MINN - Carter, Eric 24 yd pass from Leidner, Mitch (Santoso, Ryan kick), 9-75 4:46	0 - 7
	08:52	NEB - Newby, Terrell 69 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 3-82 1:22	7 - 7
	03:50	NEB - Moore, Alonzo 32 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 3-29 0:53	14 - 7
2nd	09:46	NEB - Brown, Drew 45 yd field goal, 16-63 6:32	17 - 7
	06:02	MINN - Maye, KJ 7 yd run (Santoso, Ryan kick), 8-75 3:44	17 - 14
	01:55	NEB - Newby, Terrell 9 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 8-75 4:07	24 - 14
3rd	04:16	NEB - Carter, Cethan 10 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 10-99 5:47	31 - 14
4th	14:21	NEB - Pierson-El, D. 14 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 6-59 3:06	38 - 14
	11:52	MINN - Leidner, Mitch 1 yd run (Maye, KJ pass from Leidner, Mitch), 8-75 2:29	38 - 22
	06:49	MINN - Santoso, Ryan 39 yd field goal, 10-52 4:01	38 - 25
	03:06	NEB - Brown, Drew 41 yd field goal, 7-38 3:43	41 - 25
	02:10	NEB - Kalu, Joshua 41 yd interception return (Brown, Drew kick)	48 - 25



MICHAEL SPOMER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Wide receiver De'Mornay Pierson-El comes down with a tipped pass for a touchdown against Minnesota.



Greg McMullen crushes a Minnesota return man.



Jonathan Rose breaks up a pass against Minnesota.

Team Statistics

	NEB	MINN
FIRST DOWNS	23	18
Rushing	8	3
Passing	14	15
Penalty	1	0
NET YARDS RUSHING	203	65
Rushing Attempts	39	26
Average Per Rush	5.2	2.5
Rushing Touchdowns	2	2
Yards Gained Rushing	228	83
Yards Lost Rushing	25	18
NET YARDS PASSING	261	301
Completions-Attempts-Int	18-26-0	26-40-2
Average Per Attempt	10.0	7.5
Average Per Completion	14.5	11.6
Passing Touchdowns	3	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	464	366
Total offense plays	65	66
Average Gain Per Play	7.1	5.5
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	2-25	6-55
PUNTS-YARDS	2-87	5-255
Average Yards Per Punt	43.5	51.0
Net Yards Per Punt	36.5	41.2
Inside 20	0	3
50+ Yards	0	1
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	0	0
KICKOFFS-YARDS	9-546	4-260
Average Yards Per Kickoff	60.7	65.0
Net Yards Per Kickoff	41.4	44.2
Touchbacks	3	2
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-49-0	1-14-0
Average Per Return	24.5	14.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	2-33-0	6-98-0
Average Per Return	16.5	16.3
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	2-43-1	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	31:43	28:17
1st Quarter	4:53	10:07
2nd Quarter	9:46	5:14
3rd Quarter	10:03	4:57
4th Quarter	7:01	7:59
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 13	6 of 15
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-5	3-3
Touchdowns	3-5	2-3
Field goals	1-5	1-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-14	1-12
PAT Kicks	6-6	2-2
Field Goals	2-3	1-1
Points off turnovers	14	0



MICHAEL SPOMER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Individual Statistics

Nebraska

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Newby, Terrell	13	120	4	116	2	69	8.9
Armstrong Jr.	8	50	12	38	0	25	4.8
Janovich, Andy	7	28	1	27	0	10	3.9
Ozigbo, Devine	4	13	0	13	0	5	3.2
Cross, Imani	2	9	0	9	0	7	4.5
Moore, Alonzo	2	8	1	7	0	8	3.5
TEAM	3	0	7	-7	0	0	-2.3
Totals	39	228	25	203	2	69	5.2

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Armstrong Jr.	18-26-0	261	3	34	1
Totals	18-26-0	261	3	34	1

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Westerkamp, J.	6	76	0	27
Moore, Alonzo	4	84	1	32
Pierson-El, D.	3	31	1	14
Reilly, Brandon	2	40	0	34
Newby, Terrell	2	20	0	18
Carter, Cethan	1	10	1	10
Totals	18	261	3	34

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Foltz, Sam	2	87	43.5	45	0	0
Totals	2	87	43.5	45	0	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Pierson-El, D.	2	49	42	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stevenson, J.	0	0	0	2	33	18	0	0	0
Gerry, Nate	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Kalu, Joshua	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	41	41
Totals	2	49	42	2	33	18	2	43	41

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Brown, Drew	1st	05:23	31 yards	Missed
Brown, Drew	2nd	09:46	45 yards	Good
Brown, Drew	4th	03:06	41 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Brown, Drew	9	546	60.7	3	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Newby, Terrell	116	20	0	0	0	136
Moore, Alonzo	7	84	0	0	0	91
Pierson-El, D.	0	31	0	49	0	80
Westerkamp, J.	0	76	0	0	0	76

Minnesota

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Brooks, Shannon	8	28	3	25	0	14	3.1
Maye, KJ	2	21	0	21	1	14	10.5
Smith, Rodney	8	20	0	20	0	4	2.5
Leidner, Mitch	8	14	15	-1	1	5	-0.1
Totals	26	83	18	65	2	14	2.5

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Leidner, Mitch	26-40-2	301	1	31	2
Totals	26-40-2	301	1	31	2

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Maye, KJ	11	94	0	18
Wolitarisky, Drew	7	54	0	24
Carter, Eric	4	91	1	31
Lingen, Brandon	3	54	0	25
Thomas, Miles	1	8	0	8
Totals	26	301	1	31

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Mortell, Peter	5	255	51.0	66	3	0
Totals	5	255	51.0	66	3	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Hardin, KiAnte	1	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Myrick, Jalen	0	0	0	2	37	26	0	0	0
Johnson, Antonio	0	0	0	1	24	24	0	0	0
Maye, KJ	0	0	0	3	37	16	0	0	0
Totals	1	14	14	6	98	26	0	0	0

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Santos, Ryan	4th	06:49	39 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Santos, Ryan	4	260	65.0	2	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Maye, KJ	21	94	37	0	0	152
Carter, Eric	0	91	0	0	0	91
Wolitarisky, Drew	0	54	0	0	0	54
Lingen, Brandon	0	54	0	0	0	54

FUMBLES: Nebraska-Janovich, Andy 1-0. Minnesota-Brooks, Shannon 1-1.



Above: Vincent Valentine battles against Minnesota. Left: Nate Gerry and Josh Kalu celebrate Gerry's fourth-quarter interception.

Defensive Statistics

#	Nebraska	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
52	Banderas, Josh	8	2	10	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Rose, Jonathan	8	0	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
28	Cockrell, B.	6	2	8	-	1-2	-	-	-	2	-	-
1B	Kalu, Joshua	5	2	7	-	-	-	-	1-41	-	-	-
25	Gerry, Nate	5	1	6	-	-	1	-	1-2	1	-	-
95	Gangwish, Jack	3	0	3	-	1-2	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
5	Young, Dedrick	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8A	Jones, Chris	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
3	Newby, Marcus	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Collins, Maliek	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98	Valentine, V.	1	0	1	1.0-11	1-11	-	-	-	-	-	-
56	Simpson, Brad	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7A	Allen, Taariq	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Reed, Antonio	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90	McMullen, Greg	1	0	1	1.0-3	1-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
43	Ferguson, Tyrin	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
88	Dzuris, Ross	1	0	1	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2A	Williams, Kier.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Janovich, Andy	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		49	10	59	2.0-14	6-20	1	1-0	2-43	5	0	0

#	Minnesota	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
13	Celestin, J	6	2	8	-	1-3	1	-	-	-	-	-
50	Lynn, Jack	7	0	7	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Johnson, Antonio	7	0	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Murray, Eric	6	0	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Ayinde, Adekunle	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
5	Myrick, Jalen	3	2	5	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Williams, E	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
97	Ekpe, Scott	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	Cockran, Theiren	1	3	4	1.0-12	2-13	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Campbell, D.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Huff, Julian	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
99	Stelter, Andrew	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	Mortell, Peter	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
96	Richardson, S	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	McGhee, D	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56	Rallis, Nick	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
87	Elmore, Gaelin	0	1	1	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
95	Ekpe, Hendrick	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		47	14	61	1.0-12	6-18	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0

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RUSHING OFFENSE: Nebraska broke the 200-yard mark and a big chunk of it came when Terrell Newby took a handoff from Tommy Armstrong Jr. and raced up the sidelines untouched for a 69-yard run to open the scoring for the Huskers. Newby chipped away against the Minnesota rush defense the rest of the night with 12 other carries for 51 yards. Armstrong also got involved in the run game with 38 yards on eight carries and fullback Andy Janovich picked up a few first downs when the Huskers needed him and finished with 27 yards. – *Michael Schaefer*

B+

PASSING OFFENSE: The Huskers had a big day through the air as Armstrong righted the ship in the passing game. The junior quarterback got into rhythm in the third quarter and led Nebraska on a fantastic drive that featured several different receivers getting involved and then Cethan Carter scoring a gritty touchdown to cap it off. Armstrong threw for 261 yards and three touchdowns in the win. The Huskers spread the ball around to six different players, with Westerkamp catching six passes for 78 yards and Alonzo Moore leading the team with four receptions for 84 yards. The offensive line allowed only one sack in the win. – *Michael Schaefer*

A

RUSHING DEFENSE: Short-handed along the defensive line, Nebraska held up extremely well to Minnesota's rushing attack. The Golden Gophers ran for just 65 yards on 26 carries and Nebraska did a nice job of not only gumming up the middle on the Golden Gophers' power runs, but also being aggressive when Minnesota tried to run the zone read, a play that killed the Huskers last year in Lincoln. Give credit to Greg McMullen, Maliek Collins and others who made sure that Minnesota was one-dimensional. – *Michael Bruntz*

A

PASSING DEFENSE: A late interception for a touchdown helped the grade here, but while the Husker defense forced Minnesota to be one-dimensional, that one dimension worked pretty well. Quarterback Mitch Leidner, never known for being a particularly great thrower, finished 26-for-40 for 301 yards and one touchdown in the game. Minnesota had seven passing plays of more than 15 yards in the game, and the Huskers' inability to play strong pass defense in the fourth quarter almost made the game much more interesting than it needed to be. Nebraska's pass rush tallied two sacks, and got to Leidner at times, but he was still able to complete passes when he needed to. – *Michael Bruntz*

D+

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: Nebraska's special teams units look a bit more scary with De'Mornay Pierson-El back returning kicks. The sophomore nearly returned his first punt for a touchdown, a 42-yard return in the first quarter. The Huskers also nicely handled an on-side kick attempt by the Gophers and Drew Brown went 2-for-3 in the game, booting a 45-yarder and a 41-yarder. The 41-yarder in the fourth quarter helped ensure that Husker fans could breathe a bit easier as Minnesota tried to rally. – *Michael Bruntz*

B+

Quoting NU running back Terrell Newby on his 69-yard touchdown run:



"That was probably one of the biggest lanes I've had to run through all year. It was huge. I was thinking just go. Run for daylight, follow my instincts and get to the endzone."

Game Notes &

Keeping It Clean

After ranking 126th with an average of 9.67 penalties per game coming into Saturday, the Huskers made it out of Minneapolis with just a couple blemishes on their record.

It actually wasn't until the third quarter, when running back Terrell Newby was caught for holding on an Alonzo Moore end around, that the Huskers were dinged for their first foul.

An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Newby's onside kick recovery in the fourth quarter would be the only other flag dropped against the Huskers. Minnesota, for its part, was only called for six penalties.

DPE Back in Box Score

Saturday's game was a welcome sight from more than just a winning perspective. One of Nebraska's top playmakers got back into the stat sheet in a prominent fashion. De'Mornay Pierson-El took the first punt return he saw since muffing one against Illinois back 42 yards and also caught an important touchdown in the fourth quarter.

"It was great to see him get the punt return early," coach Mike Riley said. "I think that gave him a good feeling, and it is also one of those things that will grow still. He is still not totally into everything that we are doing right now, so I don't think he's as good as he will be, for sure."

Pierson-El missed the first four games of the season with a Jones fracture in his right foot and has been limited since returning for the Illinois game. Jordan Westerkamp returned punts for much of the Illinois game and the entirety of the Wisconsin matchup while Pierson-El got his bearings back.

"It felt good," Pierson-El said of being back on punt returns. "It was just something that you need to go through in practice to get more comfortable with. You see what happens when you get comfortable. That's all it was."

His touchdown catch in the right corner of the end zone made Husker fans feel a bit more comfortable as well. The tipped ball score made the lead 38-14.

"It was a slant and go kind of," Pierson-El said. "(The cornerback) bailed early, so I knew it was going to be a tough catch. He was right there, so I tapped it and grabbed it coming back down. That was it."

Big Play for Newby

The game didn't exactly start the way the Huskers wanted it defensively, allowing an easy 75-yard touchdown drive to start the game, but offensively, running back Terrell Newby gave the team the jolt it needed.

The junior's 69-yard scoring burst through the right side of the defense on the third Nebraska play evened things up at seven apiece.

"It started up front with the offensive line getting a good push, and everybody slid to the left," Newby said.



MICHAEL SPOMER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Nebraska wide receiver De'Mornay Pierson-El stretches out for a catch against Minnesota.

"It was a wide open hole. I don't think I got touched at all. From there on it was just speed."

Coach Mike Riley was pleased to see his offense respond as quickly as it did.

"I think that was a huge part of the game," he said. "(Minnesota) had a nice drive with a couple of really nice plays that worried me, but at the same time, I told the defense, 'Hey, they just made two really good plays on that drive. Let's go back, we'll do better.' When we answered with that touchdown, that was a big factor." (Riley)

Valentine Returns

Defensive tackle Vincent Valentine played his first full game Saturday since suffering an ankle injury against South Alabama the second week of the season. Although he isn't completely healed, the junior said it felt good to get back on the field.

"It's been hard," Valentine said. "It's still only at like 60-65 percent, but I just want to go out

there and battle with my guys. I just love getting film and being able to go out there with my guys and play hard. It feels good."

Valentine rotated in with Maliek Collins, Greg McMullen and Mick Stoltenberg. He recorded one tackle, a sack of Minnesota quarterback Mitch Leidner for an 11-yard loss.

"It felt good," Valentine said. "Somebody else helped me on the sack, but it felt good because I just love hitting quarterbacks, you know what I'm saying?"

After the game, the "Bits of Wooden Chair" trophy, a Faux Pelini-inspired memorial given to the winner of each year's Nebraska-Minnesota football game, was passed around the visiting locker room. Valentine was a bit confused by the piece of hardware.

"I saw it, but I didn't get to hold it," he said. "I don't even know where it came from, so I was trying to figure that out. Someone added me on Twitter and was talking about it, but I didn't know what they were talking about until I saw it

after the game."

Big Ten Commissioner Attends Game

During a pre-game interview up in the Minnesota press box Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delaney spoke on several topics, including facilities, good coaches and top athletes making the conference successful. However, not once was Nebraska mentioned, despite the fact that the Huskers were in town to face the Gophers later that day.

It's not really surprising, but when he spoke of the universities who had top facilities that others should be striving more, he mentioned Ohio State and Michigan.

He was asked if he regretted accepting Rutgers into the conference and he said no. Nobody asked if he regretted accepting Nebraska in.

Delaney did spend a good portion of half-time the third quarter in the Nebraska Athletic Director's suite along with NU Chancellor Harvey Perlman.

Nebraska 48, Minnesota 25





Clockwise from left: Alex Lewis blocks as Andy Janovich carries the ball. Josh Banderas (52) and Byerson Cockrell tackle the Minnesota back. Tommy Armstrong Jr. tries to escape the grasp of Minnesota's Theiren Cockran. Nate Gerry and Josh Kalu converge on a tackle. Alonzo Moore skies to try and bring in a high pass attempt. Jack Gangwish (95) and Dedrick Young (5) crush Minnesota running back Shannon Brooks.

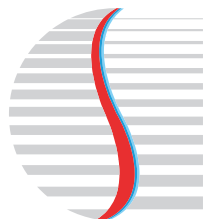
PHOTOS BY
JIMMY RASH &
MICHAEL SPOMER



JIMMY RASH / HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Nebraska tight end Cethan Carter puts his hand down as he dives for the pylon. Carter was initially ruled down short of the end

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zone but the official review confirmed he did indeed cross the plane for a touchdown.

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Pictured are Lauren Tobias of Lincoln, Sarah Spore of Overland Park, Kan., Lauren Strigel of Victoria, Minn., Ashley Bogus of Lincoln, Ally Aubrey of Victoria, Minn., Annika Bergum of St. Anthony, Minn. and Alex Felea of Wayzata, Minn.



Larry and Joyce Gunther along with Steve and Marie Zach came up from Columbus.



Above: Al and Marilyn LaMontia along with Richard and Kay DeWell of Omaha came up to Minnesota to watch the Huskers play the Gophers. These two couples have had season tickets in Lincoln since 1939.



Chuck and Mari-Sue Beard of Lincoln along with Ryan and Jenny Pepper of Eagan, Minn. pose for a shot before going into TCF Bank Stadium.



Matt and Addy McDermott along with Brenda Romero, Teago Lake and Marco Lake pose in front of TCF Bank Stadium.



Matt Magrath and son Jordan, originally from McCook, came in from Seattle, Wash. hoping to find tickets to watch their beloved Huskers play the Minnesota Gophers in Minneapolis.



Chris and Kelli Kooyman of Omaha made the trip to Minneapolis for the game.



Members of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority chapter in Lincoln – Kassidy Kruger of Sioux Falls, S.D., Mari Burke of Chamberlain, S.D., Ava Leininger of Aurora, Sophie Sealer of Omaha, Meredith Boojen of Lincoln, Abby Krage of Pueblo, Colo. and Kelsey Pflieger of Woodbury, Minn. – posed in front of TCF Bank Stadium before the Huskers took on the Gophers.

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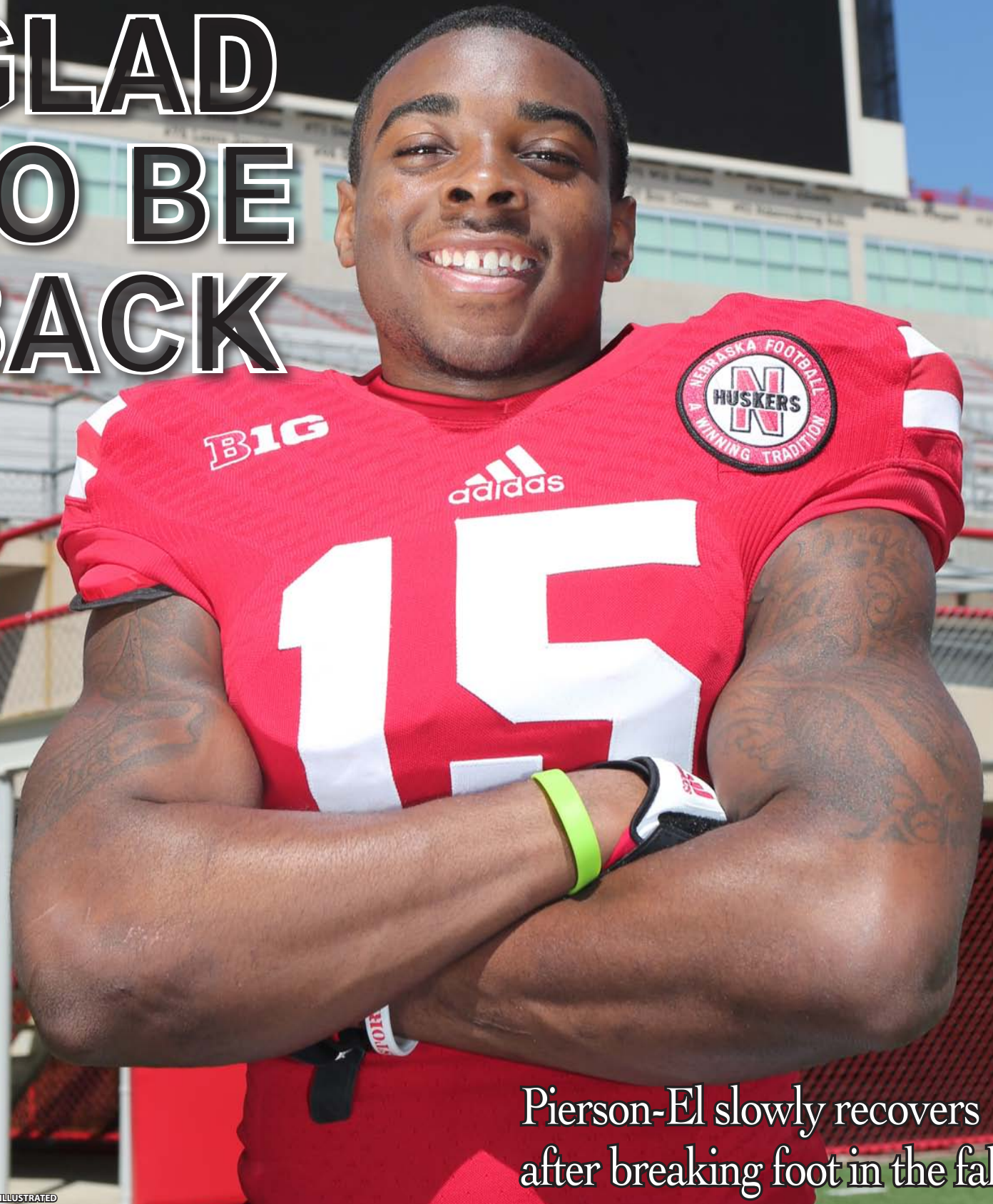


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GLAD
TO BE
BACK



Pierson-El slowly recovers
after breaking foot in the fall

JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Stories by Lanny Holstein and Darren Ivy

Nebraska wide receiver extraordinaire De'Mornay Pierson-El didn't experience a brutal collision or a violent twist. No, it was a simple pass route that sidelined the big play weapon for the first four weeks of the season with a Jones Fracture in his right foot.

"It happened doing something that I do everyday," he said. "We were in practice running a post corner, and I was planning on going to the post, but I felt something when I was going to go back to the corner. It kind of went limp on me a little bit, and that's all she wrote."

There was no violent hit, there was no hysteria, there was no nothing. In fact, Pierson-El didn't even stop practicing that fateful day in mid-August.

"I went through the whole practice with a broken foot," he said. "I was still cutting and everything, but it wasn't as good. At times, it would give out, but straight ahead I was running full speed, slightly pained."

It wasn't until afterwards, when Pierson-El had an x-ray done, that he was sidelined for the early season. The results showed a break that required surgery, a crushing blow to a guy who figured prominently into the offensive game plans at that point.

Fast forward to the present day, and Pierson-El is back on the field but not in the capacity he had planned on. The coaching and training staffs want him taking it slow as not to reinjure the foot. He accepts the situation but not without a bit of frustration.

"It sucks, but I had to make a decision on how I was going to come back," he said. "It was more about how I would get back on the field. I mean, things happen for a reason, and you can't control it, can't dwell on it. You have to push to be better, come back stronger."

The wide out says he's nearing full health again, quoting himself at 98 percent the week of Minnesota. He claimed it might have been as short as a few days time before he regained his full burst and explosion.

That would be quick considering he returned to running only a few weeks ago.

"I feel comfortable, and I feel like I could have done more (against Illinois and Wisconsin), but that's not my job," Pierson-El said. "I know they don't want to hurt it or re-aggravate anything. They are just taking precautions, really."

Coach Mike Riley explained that part of the reason Pierson-El isn't being used as extensively as once thought is that the receiver is behind in physical repetitions. Pierson-El agreed with that notion... kind of.

"You still have to really get out there and run through it," he said. "It's kind of a feel type of thing. There are only so many mental reps you can take, but when I got back out there, it was like I wasn't really gone. I was doing the same things I was doing before I left."

Pierson-El hopes the days are short before he is allowed to fully get back on game days and show those skills again.

He's seen what Riley and offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf have done with the game plan; adding fly sweeps, screen passes and generally more wide receiver involvement; and he wants a slice of the action.

"It's like seeing your gifts at Christmas and not opening them yet," he said. "You know you have them, but you just can't get them yet."

Searching for Balance

The Nebraska offense sputtered to a near stop over the course of the Illinois and Wisconsin games, and coach Mike Riley was looking for answers heading to Minnesota.

"I think one of the initial things that has to happen is we have to find balance in our offense," the coach said. "We're not going to live effectively like we are right now, so we have to, as coaches, be selective in what we do and then be good at it."

HI'S TOP 5

TOUCHDOWN PASSES THROWN IN A NU CAREER



Taylor Martinez threw his 56th and final touchdown pass of his Nebraska career against Minnesota in 2013.

- 1 TAYLOR MARTINEZ**
56 - (2010-13)
- 2 TOMMY ARMSTRONG JR.**
46 - (2013-PRESENT)
- 3 ZAC TAYLOR**
45 - (2005-06)
- 4 JOE GANZ**
44 - (2004-08)
- 5 TOMMIE FRAZIER**
43 - (1992-95)

Quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. threw for three touchdown passes against Minnesota, giving him 46 career touchdown passes, which moved him into second place on the Nebraska career touchdown pass list. With his three touchdowns against the Golden Gophers, he broke a tie with Tommie Frazier (43) and passed Joe Ganz (44) and Zac Taylor (45) on the NU career touchdowns list.

Through the first four games, quarterback Tommy Armstrong was an efficient passer, completing nearly 59 percent of his throws and leading the conference in both passing yardage and passing touchdowns. Against Illinois and Wisconsin, he completed only 35 percent of his passes for one touchdown and an interception.

Riley said he thinks the throwing issues are where it all starts. Get that part of the offense back on track, and the running game will follow suit.

“We’ve got to be more versatile on pass, for sure,” the coach said. “I think we’re running OK, and I think if we passed better, and I’m not talking about just the passer. There’s protection issues, there’s route issues, there’s all the detail of what you do. If we pass the ball better, we’re going to be even better running, because the makings are here.”

One way the passing game could be more versatile is through shorter, easier passes, according to Riley.

“I’d really like to see us get more of our game going in the screen game,” he said. “We’ve had some pretty good looking plays there, but not enough of them, and I think we can do more yet in that way.”

Turn Around!

You can hear fans in any stadium yelling it as an out of position defensive back tries to cover a receiver coming back for the football.

“Turn around!”

And it seems like you can hear it being yelled in Memorial Stadium more often than normal these days. Maybe it’s just the porous pass defense in general, but something about Nebraska’s defensive play had fans wondering about how their team has been defending the football in the air.

“In general, the way that you have to play it is if you are in a great shape on a receiver, we call it being in phase with him, basically being on the high shoulder, and you’re in good shape, then you can look back for the ball,” coach Mike Riley said.

If the DB isn’t in good shape, then it’s another story, according to the coach.

“If he’s ahead of you, if he’s beaten you off the line of scrimmage, there’s no sense in looking back because if you look back you’re going to lose speed and he’s running full speed,” Riley said. “So you’ve got to gain ground and that’s where you find guys playing into them and that’s where they get into trouble.”

The infamous pass interference call is often the result of those situations, but Riley said he’ll put up with a few of those calls as not to get beat turning around too early.

“If they look back, the balls not being thrown to them, that’s what I always tell them,” the coach said. “It’s being thrown to the other guy, so you better get to him before you look back for the ball. So you’ve got to be in good shape to look back for the ball, in general.”

Finding Motivation

Starting the season 2-4 could be a recipe for disaster on the motivation front, especially at a program where conference championships and competing with the best are an expectation. But it hasn’t been that way thus far, according to coach Mike Riley.

“I’m not going to be overly dramatic about it until I see a real issue there because they’ve answered the bell every Monday to me,” the coach said. “They’ve gotten ready to play.”

Following the 23-21 loss to Wisconsin, a record number of players showed up for voluntary weight lifting that Sunday. Riley was happy with the way his guys kept their heads up and kept rolling



MICHAEL SPOMER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Defensive back Jonathan Rose makes a tackle against Minnesota.

along. It’s not like he hasn’t seen a team or two lose track of itself during a slump.

“Are they fading away in school? Is there a disengagement here?” Riley said. “What’s the energy level for practice? What’s the attention? Those are all tell-tale signs, right? I’ve been in it long enough to have seen all of that.”

Motivation has to come internally now, according to the coach. Each game is its own season.

“A chance to win,” Riley said. “A chance to really prove what we can do, you know, without having to think about big ramifications or standings. We’re out of that right now. We’re just into a box of a game. And that’s a good way to live anyway.”

Burn It, Baby

True freshman running back Jordan Stevensen burned his redshirt against Wisconsin, the school that spurned him, for a chance to play on special teams.

The former Texas high school standout returned just one kickoff for 14 yards, but it was potentially the start of something much bigger for Stevensen.

“We thought he can give us, in different ways, and maybe some other parts of other special teams initially and maybe, maybe down the road, as he learns more of what we’re doing offensively, as a runner,” coach Mike Riley said. “It’s a long season and so the more healthy, good athletes that we can have ready to go, that’s why we did it.”

Stevensen’s recruitment was a condensed process on Nebraska’s side. Wisconsin denied him admittance roughly two weeks before fall camp started, leaving him to start over from scratch. Nebraska came calling soon after, and landed him, but when he showed up to practice with a bit of a belly, a lot of the hype that surrounded the four star prospect died down.

“He has worked hard in all areas of his life here, not just the football end of it, to get back,” Riley said of Stevensen. “To get back in shape. To get back with an opportunity to help. And since he really wanted to do (burn the redshirt), and he has done those things as of late, we thought... the one thing we want to make sure is that we’re doing everything we can for this team, right now.”

Hometown Huskers

Dylan Utter works way into scholarship, starting role

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Jimmy Rash

DYLAN UTTER is the classic walk-on success story.

He's a Nebraska kid, raised a few miles down the road in Omaha and a former stud, shine-bowl player at Papillion-La Vista High School. He was good enough to go to school for free, but he turned down scholarship offers from Army and North Dakota to give his dreams a run.

"You just want to play at the highest level you could, so you won't regret anything," the offensive lineman said. "Whether or not you could or couldn't play at this level, you would never know unless you came here."

Utter said he grew up a big Husker football fan, just like everyone else around him, because it was the only way to be. Not that he attended a ton of games, had access to season tickets or anything like that, but Utter knew how big a deal it was when former-offensive line coach Barney Cotton hinted at a preferred walk-on spot for him.

"It was something I always wanted to do," Utter said.

The lineman didn't even need to take his visits. He told Army and North Dakota 'thanks, but no thanks' and took his talents a few miles down I-80, following in the footsteps of so many before him.

"As I got older, I kind of focused on the guys that were walk-ons that turned into starters like (Mike) Caputo and Spencer Long and (Seung Hoon) Choi was up here as well. Mark Pelini," Utter said. "They were in the same spot as me, could have gone to smaller schools, but they chose to come here and it paid off in the end."

Becoming a Husker paid off, literally, for Utter before this, his junior season. Utter was one of five walk-ons put on the payroll by new head man Mike Riley.

"It was pretty sweet," Utter said of the day he learned he had a scholarship. "Just knowing that you can compete at this level. You work your tail off and you kind of earned it, so it's a good thing to see in the end."

Utter's road to starting left guard began in 2012 when he entered the fray as a scout team player. He spent the season emulating opposing offenses and trying to hold his own against the starting defense. At that point, he wasn't a guard, per se. He was an "offensive lineman."

"I came in just on scout team, and you work at whatever position they need you at," Utter said. "Then in spring camp they will move you from left to right to center. Your ability to move to all those positions kind of helps you understand what everyone is doing."

As 2013 and 2014 rolled along, Utter found a home at guard, backing up the likes of Jake Cotton and Mike Moudy, but it was at center where he earned his first career start in the Holiday Bowl. Things were in shakeup mode with Bo Pelini fired and the team looking for a win. Utter took advantage, leading to a head up this season.

"You just want to work your butt off, and whatever happens happens," he said. "The fact that I'm in the role I'm in now is pretty amazing."

At this point, Utter isn't a walk-on anymore. He's a scholarship player and a starter, and the expectation is for him to be great, something he takes very seriously.

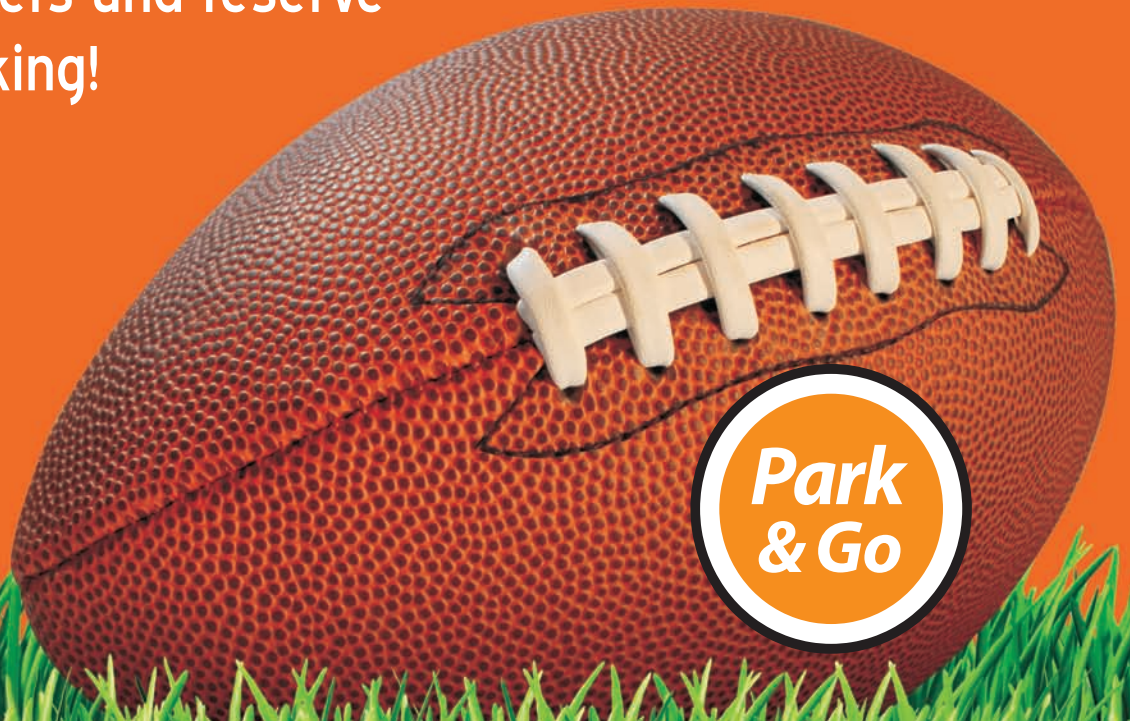
"I would say each game I'm up with the top guys grading out," he said. "The hard work is paying off."



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2015 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)
1	Westerkamp, Jordan	WR	6-0	195	Jr.	Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic)	42	Foster, Trey	TE	6-0	245	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
2	Darlington, Zack	QB	6-2	205	RFr.	Apopka, Fla. (Apopka)	42	Koley, Creighton	DB	6-0	180	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic)
2	Mosley, Trai	CB	5-10	170	RFr.	Pflugerville, Texas (Hendrickson)	43	Classen, Brett	WR	6-2	205	So.	Medina, Minn. (Winona State) (Wayzata)
2	Stevenson, Jordan	IB	5-9	205	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff)	43	Ferguson, Tyrin	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr)
3	Alston, Lavan	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure)	44	McCann, Mitch	FB	6-0	235	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)
3	Newby, Marcus	LB	6-1	235	So.	North Potomac, Md. (Quince Orchard)	44	Stoltenberg, Mick	DL	6-5	265	RFr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
4	Anderson, Avery	DB	6-0	175	Fr.	Surprise, Ariz. (Pine Creek (Colorado Springs))	45	Natter, A.J.	DE	6-5	250	So.	Milton, Wis. (Milton)
4	Armstrong Jr., Tommy	QB	6-1	220	Jr.	Cibola, Texas (Steele)	45	Reimers, Bryan	WR	6-5	210	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East)
5	Young, Dedrick	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial)	47	Jarzynka, Matt	DE	6-4	240	RFr.	Loup City, Neb. (Loup City)
6	Bush, AJ	QB	6-3	220	RFr.	Alpharetta, Ga. (Norcross)	48	Evans, Erik	DE	6-3	255	So.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
6	Lee Jr., Eric	DB	6-0	180	Fr.	Milton, Mass. (Valor Christian (Colorado))	48	Rahn, Gabe	WR	6-1	190	So.	Le Mars, Iowa (Le Mars)
7	Allen, Taariq	WR	6-3	200	Sr.	Weston, Mass. (The Rivers School)	49	Hemphill, Austin	FB	6-0	220	Fr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
7	Collins, Maliek	DT	6-2	300	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Center)	49	Weber, Chris	LB	6-3	220	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)
8	Jones, Chris	DB	6-0	180	So.	Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood)	50	Johns, Garrett	DL	6-0	280	Jr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
8	Morgan Jr., Stanley	WR	6-0	185	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (St. Augustine)	51	Brugmann, Jared	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
9	Broekemeier, Tyson	QB	6-1	200	Sr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)	51	Freudenburg, Ryan	OL	6-5	305	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Lutheran-Northeast)
9	Neal, DaiShon	DE	6-7	250	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Central)	52	Banderas, Josh	LB	6-2	235	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
10	Kalu, Joshua	CB	6-1	185	So.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)	53	Boryca, Alex	LB	6-2	220	RFr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
10	Turner, Jamal	WR	6-1	190	Sr.	Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)	54	Painter, Robby	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Centennial, Colo. (Grandview)
11	Carter, Cethan	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	New Orleans, La. (Archbishop Rummel)	54	Poppen, Garrett	LB	6-1	215	RFr.	Giltner, Neb. (Giltner)
11	Joseph, Boaz	DB	6-1	190	So.	Weston, Fla. (Cyprus Bay)	55	Maurice, Kevin	DT	6-3	280	Jr.	Orlando, Fla. (Freedom)
12	Gifford, Luke	LB	6-3	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)	55	Thurston, Paul	OL	6-5	295	Jr.	Arvada, Colo. (Arvada West)
13	Hovey, Lane	WR	6-4	205	Jr.	Adel, Iowa (Adel-Desoto-Minburn)	56	Gaylord, Christian	OL	6-6	275	Fr.	Baldwin City, Kan. (Baldwin City)
13	Talan, Adrienne	LB	6-1	200	Fr.	Davie, Fla. (Flanagan)	56	Simpson, Brad	LB	6-0	225	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Ralston)
14	Rose, Jonathan	CB	6-1	195	Sr.	Leeds, Ala. (Auburn) (Leeds)	57	Sterup, Zach	OL	6-8	320	Sr.	Hastings, Neb. (Hastings St. Cecilia)
15	Pierson-El, De'Mornay	WR	5-9	185	So.	Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac)	57	Weinmaster, Jacob	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Loveland, Colo. (Loveland)
15	Rose-Ivey, Michael	LB	5-11	240	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)	58	Lopez, Joel	DL	6-2	260	So.	Saint Charles, Ill. (Burlington Central)
16	Reed, Antonio	DB	6-2	200	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. (Southaven (Miss.))	58	Whitaker, Corey	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta)
17	Fyfe, Ryker	QB	6-2	210	Jr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)	59	Cleveland, Brody	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala)
17	King, Sedrick	DE	6-4	240	RFr.	Plant City, Fla. (Plant City)	59	Finnin, Matt	OL	6-7	305	Sr.	Crete, Ill. (College of DuPage) (Crete Monee)
18	Barry, Mohamed	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)	62	Conrad, Cole	OL	6-5	290	RFr.	Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan)
19	Keels, Joe	DE	6-3	265	Sr.	Kenosha, Wis. (Highland CC) (Bradford)	63	Farmer, Tanner	OL	6-4	310	RFr.	Highland, Ill. (Highland)
21	Jackson, Charles	DB	5-11	180	Jr.	Spring, Texas (Klein Collins)	65	Reeves, Ryne	OL	6-3	300	Sr.	Crete, Neb. (Crete)
21	Wilbon, Mikale	IB	5-8	190	RFr.	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)	66	Utter, Dylan	OL	6-1	285	Jr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
22	Ozigbo, Devine	RB	5-11	225	Fr.	Sachse, Texas (Sachse)	67	Foster, Jerald	OL	6-3	310	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
22	Ridder, Anthony	DB	6-2	205	Sr.	West Point, Neb. (West Point Central Catholic)	68	Gates, Nick	OL	6-5	290	RFr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)
23	Davie, Daniel	CB	6-1	190	Sr.	Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice)	70	Kondolo, Chongo	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Carrollton, Texas (Fresno City College) (Creekview)
23	Rose, Austin	IB	6-1	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)	71	Lewis, Alex	OL	6-6	290	Sr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Colorado) (Mountain Pointe)
24	Williams, Aaron	S	5-11	185	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Carver)	72	Hannon, Zach	OL	6-5	305	So.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)
25	Gerry, Nate	S	6-2	205	Jr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)	73	Hahn, Sam	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	DeWitt, Neb. (North Dakota St.) (Tri-County)
25	Holtmeier, Blake	WR	6-2	200	RFr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	74	Barnett, Jalin	OL	6-4	310	Fr.	Lawton, Okla. (Lawton)
26	Connely, Thomas	LB	5-11	205	RFr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	75	Anderson, Fyn	DL	6-3	260	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
26	Pelzer, Brady	WR	5-11	180	RFr.	Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East)	75	Long, Chris	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Blair, Neb. (Blair)
27	Stutcliffe, Jamie	PK	6-2	190	Jr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Utah/Pierce College) (Thousand Oaks)	76	Johnson Jr., Dwayne	OL	6-6	280	So.	Houston, Texas (Bellaire)
27	Foltz, Sam	P	6-1	200	Jr.	Greely, Neb. (Grand Island)	76	Owen, Dylan	DL	6-5	235	RFr.	Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy) (Somers)
27	Johnson, Noah	RB	6-0	195	Fr.	Sutton, Neb. (Sutton)	77	Knevel, David	OL	6-9	310	So.	Brantford, Ontario, Canada (Pauline Johnson Collegiate)
27	Williams, Kieron	S	6-0	190	So.	Shreveport, La. (Air Force Prep) (C.E. Byrd)	78	Price, Givens	DT	6-4	310	Sr.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
28	Cockrell, Byerson	S	6-0	185	Sr.	Columbus, Miss. (East Mississippi CC) (Columbus)	79	Decker, Michael	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (North)
28	Taylor, Adam	IB	6-2	210	So.	Katy, Texas (Katy)	82	Moore, Alonzo	WR	6-2	195	Jr.	Winnfield, La. (Winnfield Senior)
29	Graham, Nolan	DB	5-11	200	RFr.	Firth, Neb. (Norris)	84	Cotton, Sam	TE	6-4	250	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
29	Nabity, Graham	IB	6-0	210	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)	85	Snyder, Matt	TE	6-5	245	Fr.	San Ramon, Calif. (California)
30	Kitrell, Bo	FB	6-1	225	RFr.	Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood)	86	Sutton, David	TE	6-3	255	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
31	Young, Conor	WR	6-1	170	Fr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)	87	Reilly, Brandon	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
32	Cross, Imani	IB	6-1	240	Sr.	Gainesville, Ga. (North Hall)	88	Dzuris, Ross	DE	6-3	250	Jr.	Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth)
32	Davis, Alex	DE	6-5	230	Fr.	Riviera Beach, Fla. (Dwyer)	88	Hoppes, Tyler	TE	6-4	240	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne State) (Southwest)
33	Bailey, Christian	WR	5-11	205	So.	San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente)	89	Ketter, Connor	TE	6-5	245	So.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
33	McKay, Garrett	LB	6-0	210	Jr.	Anaheim Hills, Calif. (Santa Ana College) (Servite)	90	McMullen, Greg	DE	6-3	280	Jr.	Akron, Ohio (Hoban)
34	Brown, Drew	PK	5-11	180	So.	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)	91	Akinmoladun, Freedom	DE	6-4	255	RFr.	Grandview, Mo. (Grandview)
34	Newby, Terrell	IB	5-10	200	Jr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Chaminade)	92	Urbach, Chase	LS	6-3	200	Fr.	Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Grosse Pointe South)
35	Janovich, Andy	FB	6-1	230	Sr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)	92	Williams, Kevin	DT	6-2	275	Sr.	Holland, Ohio (Springfield)
36	Karel, Reid	ATH	6-3	190	Fr.	Seward, Neb. (Seward)	94	Davis, Khalil	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
37	Lazaro, Noah	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southwest)	95	Gangwish, Jack	DE	6-2	265	Sr.	Wood River, Neb. (Wood River)
37	Mazour, Wyatt	RB	5-9	190	Fr.	Albion, Neb. (Boone Central)	95	Lindsay, Spencer	PK	5-9	205	Jr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney)
38	Jordan, Harrison	FB	5-10	230	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	96	Davis, Carlos	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
39	Nelson, Jordan	IB	5-7	180	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)	97	Rath, Logan	DT	6-4	280	Jr.	Giltner, Neb. (South Dakota State) (Giltner)
40	Betka, Ty	WR	5-7	165	Jr.	Superior, Neb. (Drake)	98	Valentine, Vincent	DT	6-3	320	Jr.	Edwardsville, Ill. (Edwardsville)
40	Ober, Jordan	LS	6-1	200	Fr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)	99	Newell, Peyton	DL	6-3	270	RFr.	Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha)
41	McNitt, Luke	TE	6-2	240	So.	Kearney, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney) (Kearney)							



2015 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Stanford	W, 16-6
Sept. 12	Eastern Illinois	W, 41-0
Sept. 19	@ Duke	W, 19-10
Sept. 26	Ball State	W, 24-19
Oct. 3	Minnesota	W, 27-0
Oct. 10	@ Michigan	L, 38-0
Oct. 17	Iowa	L, 40-10
Oct. 24	@ Nebraska	
Nov. 7	Penn State	
Nov. 14	Purdue	
Nov. 21	@ Wisconsin	
Nov. 28	@ Illinois*	

*Chicago, Illinois

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

California	L, 31-24
Northern Illinois	L, 23-15
Western Illinois	W, 24-7
@ Penn State	W, 29-6
Wisconsin	W, 20-14
@ Minnesota	L, 24-17
Nebraska	L, 38-17
@ Iowa	L, 48-7
Michigan	L, 10-9
@ Notre Dame	W, 43-40 OT
@ Purdue	W, 38-14
Illinois	L, 47-33

HEAD COACH

Pat Fitzgerald is a perfect fit as the head coach of Northwestern. It is hard to imagine he has been there 10 years after taking over for Randy Walker who unexpectedly passed away in 2006. Prior to assuming the head coaching duties, Fitzgerald was the Wildcats' linebacker coach and recruiting coordinator. He was just 31 years old when he was named the head coach. Fitzgerald is possibly the most decorated player in Northwestern history. As a linebacker for the Wildcats in 1995 and 1996, he was a consensus All-American, the Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner, the Chuck Bednarik Award winner and Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. Currently he has a 65-54 overall record and a 31-43 conference mark as the coach at Northwestern. The Wildcats' have gone to five bowl games, winning one.



Justin Jackson takes the hand off from Clayton Thorson earlier this season.

Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos by Stephen J. Carrera

Another Close Game Between Huskers and Wildcats?

Whenever these two teams get together in Lincoln, the game turns into a closely contested battle.

Northwestern returns to Lincoln, a scene two years ago where they lost one of their most heartbreaking games in recent memory when the Huskers won with a Hail Mary on the last play of the game.

Playing at home for the Huskers hasn't been easy. They have already lost two games in Memorial Stadium and Northwestern always seem to play Nebraska tough in Lincoln.

But the Big Red got a positive road win against Minnesota which might just jump start the Huskers for the rest of the year.

Prediction

This game against Northwestern might not be as close as it has been in the past. Expect NU to keep the momentum rolling.

Nebraska 31 Northwestern 21

A look back - A Total Mismatch

Nebraska 49, Northwestern 7

Sept. 28, 1974 in Lincoln

Nebraska is not an easy opponent when they are coming off of a loss the week before. Northwestern found that out as they ran into a first half buzz saw.

Guided by quarterback Dave Humm, who was doubtful leading up to the game because of an injury he suffered in a loss to Wisconsin the week prior, the Huskers ran the ball up and down the field on the Wildcats building a 35-0 lead at halftime.

With the game in hand 10th-ranked Nebraska began to get its backups in the game. They added two more touchdowns while the Wildcats were able to score

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Northwestern linebacker Anthony Walker

for the first time on the opening play for the fourth quarter.

Leading the way for the Nebraska rushing attack was running back Monte Anthony who set freshman records by rushing for 111 yards on 14 carries and added a touchdown.

The final game stats just showed how dominating the Huskers were. Nebraska had 30 first downs compared to Northwestern's 11, and had 563 yards of total offense to Northwestern's 181.

Offensive Preview

Northwestern isn't exactly a juggernaut offensively. They average around 20 points per game.

But they have some weapons that if not contained, can cause problems for defenses. The main one is sophomore running back Justin Jackson, who has everything you want in a game changer at that position.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Jackson is on pace to surpass 1,000 yards rushing this season. He currently has run for over 700 yards and two touchdowns. He hasn't had a breakout performance yet but has shown the ability to

carry the ball 30-plus times in a game.

The Wildcats can do some damage in the passing game as they have two physical receivers who have the ability to get open and make yards after the catch.

Christian Jones is a big, physical presence at 6-foot-4, 235 pounds and Dan Vitale is only an inch shorter than Jones with the same weight.

At quarterback redshirt freshman Clayton Thorson is a dual threat but hasn't been a real difference maker as of yet. He has the ability but needs more seasoning.

Defensive Preview

The reason why Northwestern has a 5-2 team record is because of its defense. Defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz's unit has been stingy in most of its games, with an average of 12 points per game in scoring defense. But they gave up 40 points to Iowa in their last game.

One of the main reasons why is leading tackler linebacker Anthony Walker. Walker looks to be in the mold of his head coach who was a former great at linebacker, and is des-

tined for stardom.

Behind Walker is safety Godwin Igwebuike, who is second on the team in tackles. At 6-0, 200 pounds, Igwebuike is a perfect fit in Northwestern's secondary

Other than Michigan and Iowa, the Wildcats have shut down their opponents on offense. They gave up only six points to Stanford and shut out Minnesota.

Last game

Iowa 40, Northwestern 10

Played Oct. 17 at Evanston, Illinois

The Hawkeyes got off to a quick start to lead 16-0 before the Wildcats found a rhythm on offense to battle back with 10-straight points to trail 16-10 at halftime.

But Iowa got back on track in the second half, scoring 24-straight points and opened up a 30 point lead en route to a surprising 40-10 win over Northwestern.

It was a dismal day for the Wildcats as they were held under 200 yards of offense, with only 51 yards rushing. Their star running back Justin Jackson was held in check with only 30 yards rushing on 10 carries and added 17 yards receiving.

Fast Facts

Location: Evanston, Illinois

Enrollment: 8,688

First Year of Football: 1882

Big Ten Titles: 8

Stadium Name: Ryan Field

Stadium Capacity: 47,130

Nickname: Wildcats

Colors: Purple and White

Mascot: Willie the Wildcat

2014 Overall Record: 5-7

2014 Big Ten Record: 3-5

Conference: Big Ten

Starters Returning (16) – Offense (6), Defense (8), Specialists (2)

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NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

2015 FOOTBALL ROSTER



No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)
1	Max Chapman	DL	6-3	270	Sr.	Ponte Vedra, Fla. / Nease	44	Malcolm Bowman	RB	5-11	195	R-Fr.	Dallas, Texas / St. Mark's School
2	Traveon Henry	S	6-1	215	Sr.	Lauderdale Lakes, Fla. / Pine Crest	44	James Prather	DL	6-4	270	R-Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Memphis University School
2	Christian Salem	WR	6-3	195	Jr.	Santa Monica, Calif. / Santa Monica	45	Nathan Fox	LB	6-2	245	Fr.	Houston, Texas / Clear Lake
3	Keith Watkins II	CB	5-11	180	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio / Moeller	46	Eric Lutzen	SB	6-6	235	R-Fr.	Pewaukee, Wis. / Pewaukee
4	Solomon Vault	RB	5-10	190	So.	Gaithersburg, Md. / Gaithersburg	46	Anthony Pierce-Adams	LB	6-0	215	R-Fr.	Chicago, Ill. / De La Salle Institute
5	Miles Shuler	WR	5-10	180	Sr.	Long Branch, N.J. / Long Branch	47	Joe Bergin	DB	5-11	190	Fr.	Bloomfield Hills, Mich. / Detroit Country Day
6	Mike McHugh	WR	6-3	195	Jr.	Kirkwood, Mo. / Kirkwood	48	Tommy Odell	S	5-11	200	So.	River Forest, Ill. / Oak Park-River Forest
7	Matt Alviti	QB	6-0	200	So.	Park Ridge, Ill. / Maine South	49	Josh Roberts	LB	6-1	215	So.	Wamego, Kan. / Rock Creek
7	Ifeadi Odenigbo	DL	6-3	250	Jr.	Centerville, Ohio / Centerville	51	Jaylen Prater	LB	6-0	230	Jr.	Hamden, Ohio / Wellston
8	Stephen Buckley	WR	6-0	185	Jr.	Forney, Texas / North Forney	52	Chris Fitzpatrick	LS	6-2	235	Jr.	Lawrenceburg, Ky. / Anderson County
8	Jack Mitchell	PK	6-3	210	Jr.	San Diego, Calif. / Torrey Pines	53	Geoff Mogus	OL	6-5	305	Sr.	Lorain, Ohio / St. Edward
9	Garrett Dickerson	SB	6-3	245	So.	Englewood, N.J. / Bergen Catholic	53	Cameron Queiro	LB	6-1	225	R-Fr.	Verona, N.J. / Bergen Catholic
10	Jake Murray	DB	6-3	200	Fr.	Coppell, Texas / Coppell	54	Trent Goens	DL	6-3	250	Fr.	Chino Hills, Calif. / Chino Hills
10	Zack Oliver	QB	6-4	230	Sr.	Baton Rouge, La. / Catholic	55	Drew Smith	LB	6-1	230	Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio / Colerain
11	TJ Green	QB	6-2	190	Fr.	Leawood, Kan. / Rockhurst	56	Brett Walsh	LB	6-1	225	So.	Monrovia, Calif. / Monrovia
11	Pierre Youngblood-Ary	WR	6-3	190	Sr.	Orlando, Fla. / Lake Brantley	57	Matt Frazier	OL	6-4	295	Sr.	Bourbonnais, Ill. / Kankakee Bishop McNamara
12	Auston Anderson	RB	5-9	180	R-Fr.	Plano, Texas / Plano West	58	Heath Reineke	DL	6-3	245	R-Fr.	Ashland, Ohio / Ashland
13	Deonte Gibson	DL	6-3	265	Sr.	Lakewood, Ohio / St. Edward	59	J.B. Butler	OL	6-3	305	R-Fr.	Plainfield, Ill. / Joliet Catholic
13	Warren Long	RB	6-0	210	Jr.	Union City, Calif. / James Logan	63	Ian Park	OL	6-4	305	Jr.	Pittsburgh, Pa. / Upper St. Clair
14	Christian Jones	WR	6-3	235	Sr.	Houston, Texas / Westfield	64	Andrew Otterman	OL	6-5	295	Fr.	Morristown, N.J. / Delbarton
14	Lloyd Yates	QB	6-2	195	Fr.	Oak Park, Ill. / Oak Park-River Forest	65	Jared Thomas	OL	6-4	275	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / Cathedral
15	Macan Wilson	WR	6-0	180	So.	Houston, Texas / Kinkaid	67	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	300	So.	Romeoville, Ill. / Plainfield East
16	Quinn Baker	WR	5-11	190	So.	Trout Valley, Ill. / Cary-Grove	68	Connor Mahoney	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Malvern, Pa. / Malvern
16	Godwin Igwebuike	S	6-0	200	So.	Pickerington, Ohio / Pickerington North	69	Brad North	OL	6-2	290	So.	Allen, Texas / Allen
17	Daniel Kubiuk	QB	6-1	200	R-Fr.	Barrington, Ill. / Barrington	70	Shane Mertz	OL	6-8	310	Sr.	Hazlet, N.J. / Raritan
17	Marcus McShepard	CB	5-11	200	So.	University Heights, Ohio / Cleveland Heights	71	Tommy Doles	OL	6-6	280	R-Fr.	Grand Rapids, Mich. / Grand Rapids Christian
18	Clayton Thorson	QB	6-4	220	R-Fr.	Wheaton, Ill. / Wheaton North	72	Blake Hance	OL	6-5	300	R-Fr.	Jacksonville, Ill. / Jacksonville
18	Anthony Walker	LB	6-1	235	So.	Miami, Fla. / Monsignor Edward Pace	73	Adam DePietro	OL	6-5	295	Jr.	Lancaster, Pa. / Lancaster Catholic
19	Cameron Dickerson	WR	6-3	225	Sr.	Englewood, N.J. / Bergen Catholic	74	Graham Bullmore	OL	6-7	290	So.	Kenosha, Wis. / Bradford
20	John Moten IV	RB	6-0	190	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. / John Burroughs School	76	Eric Olson	OL	6-6	295	Jr.	Sudbury, Mass. / Buckingham Browne & Nichols
21	Justin Jackson	RB	5-11	190	So.	Carol Stream, Ill. / Glenbard North	77	Kenton Playko	OL	6-5	300	Jr.	Lewis Center, Ohio / Olentangy
21	Kyle Queiro	S	6-3	200	So.	Verona, N.J. / Bergen Catholic	78	Adam Lemke-Bell	OL	6-5	270	Fr.	Oak Park, Ill. / Oak Park-River Forest
22	Parrker Westphal	CB	6-1	190	R-Fr.	Bolingbrook, Ill. / Bolingbrook	79	Sam Coverdale	OL	6-7	305	So.	Chagrin Falls, Ohio / Kenston
23	Nick VanHoose	CB	6-0	190	Sr.	Urbana, Ohio / Graham	80	Austin Carr	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Benicia, Calif. / Benicia
24	Mark Gorogianis	WR	6-0	190	So.	Lombard, Ill. / Montini Catholic	81	Jelani Roberts	WR	5-8	160	Fr.	Owings Mills, Md. / The Gilman School
24	Montre Hartage	DB	6-0	180	Fr.	Cordele, Ga. / Crisp County	82	Andrew Scanlan	WR	6-2	215	Jr.	Royersford, Pa. / Spring-Ford
25	Luke Dauch	WR	6-3	220	Sr.	Bloomfield Hills, Mich. / Lahser	83	Chad Hanaoka	WR	5-10	170	So.	Honolulu, Hawaii / 'Iolani School
26	Terrance Brown	S	6-1	210	Jr.	Long Beach, Calif. / Los Alamitos	84	Cameron Green	WR	6-3	210	Fr.	Buffalo Grove, Ill. / Stevenson
27	Matthew Harris	CB	5-11	180	Jr.	LaGrange Highlands, Ill. / Lyons Township	85	Chris Cliff	WR	6-2	205	Fr.	West Bloomfield, Mich. / Walled Lake Northern
28	Alonzo Mayo	DB	5-11	170	Fr.	Baltimore, Md. / The Gilman School	85	Mark Szott	SB	6-4	255	Sr.	Naperville, Ill. / Waubonsie Valley
29	Trae Williams	DB	5-11	200	Fr.	The Plains, Ohio / Athens	86	Flynn Nagel	WR	5-11	190	Fr.	Lemont, Ill. / Lemont
31	Tommy Vitale	LB	6-3	220	Fr.	Wheaton, Ill. / Wheaton Warrenville South	87	Garrett Kidd	WR	6-2	195	Sr.	Midland, Mich. / Herbert Henry Dow
32	Nate Hall	LB	6-2	230	R-Fr.	Toledo, Ohio / Southview	88	Jayne Taylor	SB	6-4	230	So.	The Woodlands, Texas / The Woodlands
33	Matt Micucci	P/PK	5-11	185	Jr.	Lake Zurich, Ill. / Stevenson	89	Charlie Fessler	WR	6-4	205	Fr.	Erie, Pa. / Cathedral Prep
33	Steven Reese	DB	6-2	190	Fr.	Buford, Ga. / Buford	90	C.J. Robbins	DL	6-5	300	Sr.	Peru, Ill. / LaSalle-Peru
34	Simba Short	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Brentwood, Calif. / De La Salle	92	Fred Wyatt	DL	6-4	270	R-Fr.	Lawrence, Kan. / Free State
35	Tom Hruby	LB	6-3	240	Jr.	Crown Point, Ind. / Andrean	93	Greg Kuhar	DL	6-3	305	Jr.	Concord Township, Ohio / St. Edward
36	Corey Acker	WR	5-9	170	So.	Ballston Lake, N.Y. / Shenendehowa Central	94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	290	Sr.	Rockford, Ill. / Boylan
38	Arthur Omilian	PK	5-11	180	Sr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Pace Academy	95	Jordan Thompson	DL	6-3	275	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio / LaSalle
39	Mason Weissenhofer	PK	6-2	185	Fr.	Planfield, Ill. / Montini Catholic	96	Hunter Niswander	K/P	6-5	235	So.	Peninsula, Ohio / Woodridge
40	Dan Vitale	SB	6-2	235	Sr.	Wheaton, Ill. / Wheaton-Warrenville South	97	Joe Gaziano	DL	6-4	255	Fr.	Scituate, Mass. / Xavier Brothers
41	Jared McGee	S	6-1	215	R-Fr.	Mansfield, Texas / Mansfield Legacy	98	Xavier Washington	DL	6-1	235	So.	Cedar Hill, Texas / Cedar Hill
42	Joseph Jones	LB	6-1	225	Jr.	Plano, Ill. / Plano	99	Ben Oxley	DL	6-6	285	R-Fr.	Avon Lake, Ohio / Avon Lake
43	Cole Johnson	WR	6-1	200	So.	Avon, Ind. / Avon							

BIGTEN NOTEBOOK

Crazy days in Big Ten

Michigan State wins on last play at Michigan, Iowa continues to remain unbeaten at 7-0. | DOUG GRIFFITHS

THEY'LL BE TALKING forever about Michigan State's win at Michigan.

Not only was the Spartans' 27-23 victory in the Big House an Instant Classic, it was nothing short of miraculous.

With Michigan leading 23-21, the Wolverines lined up in a punt formation only to have punter Blake O'Neill bobble a low snap. When he picked up the ball, he tried to kick it, but was hit immediately. The ball popped up in the air and Michigan State's Jalen Watts-Jackson picked it up and returned it 38 yards for a touchdown on the game's final play.

The play will definitely win an ESPY and be remembered as one of the most unlikely endings in college football history.

"That's why football is loved so much in America," Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio said. "It's because things like this happen. Every now and then, they happen."

"You go from 10 seconds, a guy punting the ball, you're thinking OK this is done. And then all of a sudden, life gets flipped upside down."

The final play will be analyzed and dissected forever.

Why didn't Michigan just take a knee instead of snap the ball to a punter or have a running back run up the middle? Had they done one or the other, Michigan State would've only been left with having to throw a desperation heave into the end zone.

"A mistake was made," Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh said. "Mistakes were made. It's very unfortunate circumstances."

"If you go for it, you leave them with a Hail Mary opportunity. We could protect and throw a long pass. We ran through the scenarios and felt like the best decision was to punt. They didn't have any returners. It was a matter of punting it. We messed up."

The loss was a bitter pill for Michigan to swallow, especially considering the Wolverines had lost six of their previous seven

meetings to their in-state rival.

"Football is a crazy, crazy game," Dantonio said. "You can't really hardly explain it."

Good luck explaining the ending we saw Oct. 17 in the Big House.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* takes a look at football happenings around the Big Ten.

EAST DIVISION INDIANA

The Hoosiers suffered a devastating home loss to Rutgers, a game they really needed to win to have a good chance at becoming bowl eligible.

Now, IU is likely going to have to win at Maryland and at Purdue, its final two regular-season games, to become bowl eligible. That's because the Hoosiers' next three games are against Michigan State, Iowa and Michigan.

"Disappointing loss," said IU head coach Kevin Wilson after the Rutgers game. "That slipped away."

Indiana's final four drives ended with a fumble, back-to-back interceptions and a punt. IU's defense finished the contest by allowing Rutgers to close the game with four-straight touchdowns before kicking the game-winning field goal.

MARYLAND

Maryland started its bye week by firing head coach Randy Edsall and has embarked on a search for a football coach.

The university's president and its athletic director publicly highlighted the urgency not only to win games, but to attract an "outsized personality" to "excite the fan base."

Maryland athletic director Kevin Anderson said, "If you look at football today, fans want an exciting, wide-open offense, and I think that's part of why weren't successful

EAST DIVISION 2015 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Ohio State	7-0	3-0
Michigan State	7-0	3-0
Penn State	5-2	2-1
Michigan	5-2	2-1
Rutgers	3-3	1-2
Maryland	2-4	0-2
Indiana	4-3	0-3

WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Iowa	7-0	3-0
Wisconsin	5-2	2-1
Illinois	4-2	1-1
Northwestern	5-2	1-2
Minnesota	4-3	1-2
Nebraska	3-4	1-2
Purdue	1-6	0-3

Oct. 17 Results

Wisconsin 24, Purdue 7
Iowa 40, Northwestern 10
Nebraska 48, Minnesota 25
Michigan State 27, Michigan 23
Rutgers 55, Indiana 52
Ohio State 38, Penn State 10

Oct. 24 Games

Northwestern at Nebraska 11 a.m.
Wisconsin at Illinois, 2:30 p.m.
Maryland vs. Penn State 2:30 p.m.
Indiana at Michigan State 2:30 p.m.
Ohio State at Rutgers 7 p.m.

Oct. 31 Games

Nebraska at Purdue TBD
Illinois at Penn State TBD
Maryland at Iowa TBD
Rutgers at Wisconsin TBD
Michigan at Minnesota 7 p.m.

All times CT

these last six games.”

Edsall was 22-34 at Maryland in less than five seasons and never beat a team ranked in the top 25. It is rare that college football coaches get fired during a season. After all, last year just three Division I-A coaches were fired during the season. Edsall is the only head coach to get a pink slip so far this season.

MICHIGAN

The Wolverine defense proved vulnerable against the Spartans.

After shutting out three straight opponents, Michigan's D was scored upon for the first time in 46 drives.

In addition, the Spartans gained 386 yards, mostly through the air and racked up 20 first downs.

Meanwhile, Michigan's offense only scored three points in the first and fourth quarters combined.

Quarterback Jake Rudock didn't turn the ball over, but threw for only 168 yards, completing 15-of-25 passes.

MICHIGAN STATE

The hero of the Spartans' unlikely win at Michigan didn't get to celebrate the unbelievable win.

Watts-Jackson laid on the maize "M" in the end zone after scoring as his teammates piled on him. In the wild celebration, Watts-Jackson dislocated his hip. He was later carted off the field and taken to a hospital.

Watts-Jackson's play made a winner out of quarterback Connor Cook, who is now 30-3 as a Michigan State starter.

Cook threw for 328 yards, completing 18-of-39 passes with one touchdown.

OHIO STATE

The Buckeyes just keep on winning.

Their victory over visiting Penn State ran their consecutive winning streak to a nation-long 20 games.

In addition, head coach Urban Meyer is now 27-0 in Big Ten regular-season play.

Recently Ohio State has been lethal in the red zone.

Against the Nittany Lions, the Buckeyes scored five touchdowns on six trips



Imani Cross carries the ball for the Huskers against Minnesota.

inside the red zone. Last week against Maryland, OSU went six-for-six in the red zone. That's 11 touchdowns in the last dozen times in the red zone. Prior to that, the Buckeyes were 6-of-16 in the red zone this season.

Even more impressive is the fact that the Scarlet and Gray was that productive without five of their top receivers sidelined against Penn State.

"It's a pretty resilient group," said Meyer afterward.

PENN STATE

For the first time in a month, Penn State took to the road for a game and it didn't fair well in a lopsided loss to Ohio State. The Nittany Lions had fits stopping Ohio State on the ground as the Buckeyes amassed 315 yards rushing.

For the game, Ohio State finished with 429 total yards compared to Penn State's 315.

The Nittany Lions also had trouble protecting quarterback Christian Hackenberg, who was sacked five times.

Hackenberg looked as though he injured his back in the third quarter and finished just 7-of-13 passing for 120 yards and a touchdown.

Freshman Saquon Barkley did provide a spark for the visitors, rushing for 194 yards.

RUTGERS

What a win head coach Kyle Flood got to be part of in his return.

Flood's Scarlet Knights rallied from 25 points down in the third quarter and kicked a 26-yard field goal as time expired to notch one of the greatest comebacks in school history.

Rutgers ended the game scoring 28 unanswered points and its comeback matches the largest in school history.

The Scarlet Knights trailed 52-27 with 5:25 left in the third quarter. Yet, somehow, somehow they rallied and when Kyle Federico's kick split the uprights as time expired, Rutgers felt as though it stole one in Bloomington.

Rutgers and IU combined for 1,223 yards of offense, 15 touchdowns and 43 plays of 10 or more yards.. The 107 combined points were the second most ever in Memorial Stadium history.

Scarlet Knights quarterback Chris Laviano threw for a career-high 386 yards (28-of-42) with three touchdowns and an interception.

WEST DIVISION ILLINOIS

Illinois' bye week came at a good time as the Illini used the time off to get healthy.

A good chunk of the Illini offense is on

the injured list.

“We don’t have that many playmakers right now because of injuries,” interim head coach Bill Cubit said.

Among those on the DL including running back Josh Ferguson (shoulder), receivers Justin Hardee (foot) and Mike Dudek (knee)

IOWA

Few people probably know outside of Big Ten Country, but Iowa is undefeated and has a very realistic shot at finishing the regular season unbeaten.

All five of the Hawkeyes final five regular-season games are against teams below .500 in Big Ten play.

Iowa improved to 7-0 for the fourth time in school history with a 30-point win at Northwestern.

The Hawkeyes did lose starting running back Jordan Canzeri, who was among the national leaders in carries, due to a left ankle injury in the first quarter.

However, backup Akrum Wadley took full advantage of his opportunity against the Wildcats.

Wadley ran for 204 yards and tied a school record with four rushing touchdowns to help the 17th-ranked Hawkeyes win at No. 20 Northwestern.

MINNESOTA

The Golden Gophers were manhandled by the Cornhuskers in the trenches.

“It was one of those things,” Minnesota head coach Jerry Kill said. “We weren’t moving them.”

Quarterback Mitch Leidner had career bests in completions (26) and yards (301) against Nebraska’s FBS-worst pass defense. However, Leidner threw two late interceptions, one that was returned for a touchdown, after passing for one score and running for another.

“It’s frustrating, looking at our goals that we set early on in the season and looking where we’re at now, but it’s part of the game,” Leidner said. “Things like this just happen, and you’ve just got to be able to keep fighting back.”



Brandon Reilly makes a 32-yard reception against Minnesota.

NORTHWESTERN

The Wildcats are reeling after dropping a 30-point decision at home to Iowa.

Northwestern, which started the season 5-0, has now lost its last two games by a combined 68 points.

Against the Hawkeyes, Northwestern turned the ball over three times and its defense allowed 492 total yards.

The Wildcats hope they’re not collapsing like they did in 2013 when they lost seven straight games after winning their first four.

“Are we the team that won five games and made plays and we’re making plays all over the place,” Northwestern head coach Pat Fitzgerald said. “Or are we a team the last two weeks quite frankly that is void of making plays.”

PURDUE

The Boilermakers just keep on losing.

They remained winless in Big Ten play, which is bad news for third-year head coach Darrell Hazell, who saw his conference record fall to a miserable 1-18.

Hazell’s Purdue team is really having trouble generating much offense.

In three Big Ten games this season, the

Boilermakers have scored a combined 41 points or an average of 13.7 per game.

Against Wisconsin, Purdue managed just 12 first downs and was held to a season-low 191 yards.

Things probably won’t get any better for the Boilermaker offense as it could be without top running back D.J. Knox, who was carted off from the sideline late in the game with an apparent leg injury.

WISCONSIN

The Badgers might soon be getting a boost as star running back Corey Clement practiced the week leading up to the Purdue game and was cleared to play, but didn’t against the Boilermakers.

No doubt Wisconsin could use Clement to help boost its rushing attack, which ranks near the bottom of the Big Ten.

The Badgers had just 96 yards on the ground against a Purdue defense that was giving up 215 yards a game.

However, quarterback Joel Stave threw for 322 yards, completing 30-of-39 passes, as the Badgers overcame several penalties and other mistakes in the red zone to turn a 10-7 third-quarter lead into a comfortable 17-point win.



Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photo courtesy of NU Media Relations.

THE TOMMIE FRAZIER ERA BEGINS

Huskers start first true freshman quarterback

Nebraska 34, Missouri 24

Oct. 24, 1992 in Columbia, Missouri

Nebraska wasn't afraid to start a freshman quarterback on the road at Missouri in 1992. It turned out to be a great move on that sunny October day, as Tommie Frazier, the first true freshman to ever start at quarterback for the Huskers, got the start over previous starter Mike Grant, and led eighth-ranked NU to a 34-24 victory over the Tigers.

"We found out the week of the game that Tommie was going to start," said starting center and team captain Jim Scott. "The coaches felt we needed some more offense, so that was the reason they put Tommie out there. He had the athletic ability and was a better runner than Mike Grant in the option system we ran on offense. Tommie played in this type of offensive system in high school, so it wasn't like he came to Nebraska not knowing how to run the option."

But Frazier had little game experience, having played in only three contests, and had gone 6-of-15 passing with 68 yards rushing. That didn't matter, however, as he performed like a seasoned veteran, rushing for 77 yards on 14 carries with three touchdowns, and completing nine of 20 passes for 157 yards.

"For being a freshman in his first start he showed a lot of composure," Scott said. "We didn't feel he was going to freeze up and make a lot of errors. I thought he played a wonderful game for being just a freshman playing on the road against Missouri."

Nebraska needed Frazier to be at his best, as Missouri moved the ball up and down the field on the Blackshirts, compiling an NU opponent-record 424 yards passing.

"It was a back-and-forth type of game with both offenses rolling pretty well, and you just thought the team that was going to get the ball last was going to win the game. But our defense came around and got some key stops and we were able to get a couple of scores ahead of them and maintain that lead," Scott said.

With the Huskers holding a slim 27-24 lead, Frazier scored his third touchdown of the day with just over two minutes remaining, a diving five-yarder on a fourth-and-goal.

"I just saw the endzone and me getting in there the best I could. Either we go in or we give the ball back," Frazier said.

Under Frazier's command, the Big Red offense rushed for 335 yards on 64 carries. The I-back tandem of Derek Brown (148) and Calvin Jones (74) helped pace the rushing attack.

"You didn't know what to expect with a freshman quarterback. You would have thought our offense would have struggled a little bit, but we were clicking and Tommie had it running well. We ran power football with the option and trap plays up the middle. You could tell Missouri was getting tired and beat up, and we were able to solidify a lot of yardage then," Scott said.

What made Frazier's performance even more impressive was the pressure of playing an important conference game on the road in front of a hostile environment.

"Missouri would always circle us on the calendar every year," said senior wingback Vincent Hawkins, who caught a 43-yard pass from Frazier in the game. "We had beaten them for so long that they thought with us starting a freshman quarterback that they would have a great shot to knock us off."



True freshman quarterback Tommie Frazier dives in for a touch



down on a fourth-and-goal play with just over two minutes remaining.



A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With **GUY INGLES**

Football Player 1968-70

Column by Butch Rasmussen

You might say Guy Ingles has led a charmed athletic life. From a football all-stater and state long jump champion at Westside High School in Omaha to days of glory on the gridiron for the Cornhuskers of Nebraska under the tutelage of Tom Osborne and Bob Devaney.

This guy was born in Los Angeles and lived there until the age of 12 when he moved with his family to Omaha. So when he took in a Dan Schneiss 17-yard touchdown pass as a Husker split end in the Coliseum in Los Angeles versus Southern Cal in September of 1970 to put the Huskers up 7-0 in the first quarter it was a special moment for this Guy.

He led the Huskers that day with five catches for 65 yards.

Ingles had plenty of big moments in his Husker career associated with touchdown catches.

How about the battle with the Oklahoma Sooners in Lincoln for the Big 8 Championship in 1970 when Ingles grabbed a 13-yard TD pass from Jerry Tagge in the third quarter to put the Huskers up by 7 in a game they would win

28-21.

It was a well known fact that Colorado fans detested the Cornhuskers and looked upon the Huskers as a big rival. How fortunate that Ingles saved 3 of his 12 career touchdowns for the pleasure of Husker fans who traveled to Boulder seeking another Husker win.

Both of Ingles parents grew up in small towns in Colorado but with Ingles wearing the scarlet and cream of the Cornhuskers they sat in the stands as big Husker fans for those Colorado games.

Ingles, otherwise known as Guy the Fly, drew cheers from Mom and Dad and all Husker fans in November 1968 as a Husker sophomore when he took in a Colorado punt at his 37-yard line and ran it back 63 yards for a touchdown before a Folsom Field stadium filled mostly with Nebraska fans loving the mountain view.

He had the opportunity again in 1970 in Boulder as a senior during Nebraska's national championship season to stir the Colorado angst again when he caught a pair of touchdown passes from Husker quarterback

Van Brownson, one for 35 yards and another for 39 yards, both in the first quarter when the Huskers made their scheduled stop in Boulder.

Once a Husker always a Husker and they'll love you forever. It's been 45 years but Ingles says he gets requests two or three times a year for interviews about his Husker experience.

Ingles graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1971 with a degree in Education: American History and Social Science and spent the next 27 years as a financial advisor with Smith Barney in Omaha.

He then took a two or three year break for time for himself and family then took a job with an Omaha Chevy dealership selling Corvettes among other Chevy products.

An avid golfer, Ingles found some time to serve on the board of the governing group of the Nebraska Golf Association.

Ingles takes pride in the fact he played on the first Omaha Westside High School state championship football team and also played on the first University of Nebraska National Championship

football team.

Ingles wasn't the only athlete in the family. His daughter Bailey 31 Was an eight-time state champion swimmer at Millard West high school and now teaches at Westgate Elementary School in District 66. She was a four-time letterwinner in her sport at Nebraska.

Their other daughter Brandy Menaugh is Director of Compliance for the athletic department at Creighton University in Omaha.

Every kid in Nebraska grows up dreaming of the likes of Tom Osborne and Bob Devaney knocking at their door and wearing the scarlet and cream of the Cornhuskers of Nebraska.

Every kid growing up in Nebraska dreams of scoring touchdowns and hearing the roar of the crowds.

They dream of their parents sitting in the stands watching as their son's names become indelibly engraved in the history of Cornhusker football.

It was Guy's dream and it became Guy's reality and at age 66 today Guy Ingles knows he was one of the lucky ones who actually got to fulfill every Nebraska kids' dream.

Q&A – Jacob Olson

Junior Cross Country Runner - Kearney, Nebraska



Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo Courtesy of NU Media Relations

Q: How much do you hang out with the team outside of practice?

A: “Constantly. We live a couple blocks away from each other, so we are always at each other’s houses hanging out, studying or whatnot.”

Q: Do you guys run outside of practice or do you get enough of that in those sessions?

A: “That’s pretty much enough, but coach gives us the day off on Sunday, so there will usually be a few of us that get together and run. It just depends what we are feeling like that week.”

Q: What’s the best part of running?

A: “The best part is being able to push yourself. With running, you can see the continued improvement from day to day and from year to year with your times and your workouts, so it’s really motivating to see yourself getting better and moving up the ranks.”

Q: Do you have any idea how many calories you eat in a day to replenish the ones you burn running?

A: “I have no idea. I know that a lot of us like to quote a book when it comes to that. If the furnace is hot enough, anything will burn. We figure if we run enough miles and we burn enough calories that our diet’s not too big of a deal.”

Q: Do you even worry about eating “bad” food?

A: “You know, I try to eat a little healthier, but some of those nights you are pretty tired after practice, and you don’t feel like cooking or anything. There will be some little splurges like that.”

Q: What’s the longest distance you have ever run?

A: “The longest for me was my first long run of this year. I went 22 miles, not quite a marathon, but I’m getting there.”

Q: What kind of course do you like the most?

A: “I guess you could say that I’m a track guy, so I like the flat cross country courses that are multiple loops, kind of simulating a grass track, as coach would call it.”

Q: You have a sweet mustache going. What’s the back story on that?

A: “I usually start one towards the end of summer and get it going through the first month of cross country. I feel like if I just grow out the mustache and the hair because it’s just kind of fun. It’s a symbol of me just working hard, and then later in the year I’ll cut the hair and shave it all off and feel fresh and ready to go.”

Q: What kind of reaction does the look get from people?

A: “It’s funny. There are a lot of compliments from it. At the first race of the season, I probably heard five or six times during the race, ‘Sweet mustache, dude’ or just comments like that. It’s all fun.”

Q: What do you like to do outside of school and cross country practice for fun?

A: “I’d say running is what I enjoy most, but I like playing golf. There’s a few of us on the team that enjoy golf a lot, so we try to go out there on the weekends when we don’t have practice or too much homework and get a couple rounds in.”



Listen to Cole Stukenholtz with Huskers Illustrated practice reports and Saturday morning pregame talk at 9 a.m. this fall on KLIN News Talk 1400 AM.



FAB FRESHMAN

Mikaela Foecke lives up to high billing as immediate playmaker

Story by Bob Hamar • Photos by Jimmy Rash and Mitch Otto

It didn't take long for John Cook to decide that Mikaela Foecke was a player he wanted at Nebraska.

Foecke came to the Husker volleyball camp when she was a freshman. Cook saw her and thought she had potential. She came the next year too, and Cook offered her a scholarship.

Foecke was particularly impressive in the radar drill. It's kind of a fun thing for the campers to see how hard they can hit it.

Cook said Foecke was in the upper 50s, maybe 58 or 59. To compare, Husker great and long-time National Team member Nancy Metcalf hit in the high 50s. Hannah Werth was in the mid 50s.

"She hits the ball as hard as anybody we've had," Cook said.

Foecke said she really doesn't remember the radar drill, but it doesn't matter. She's at Nebraska now playing for one of the top programs in the nation.

"I just love it here," Foecke said. "The campus is awesome. You go to other campuses and play there, and it's just not quite the same. The staff has been great. There's not really anything like it. Everyone here really and truly cares about you, especially as a student athlete. It's a great environment to be in."

Cook is glad to have her too. He watched her in high school and noticed how hard she hits the ball and what a great teammate she was.

"She became six-rotation player," he said. "That's our goal is to get her next year to be a six-rotation player. Right now, when we let her go in the back row, sometimes she kinds of hold her own, but we need a year to really develop that."

Foecke seemed to adjust to college volleyball in a hurry, but she said it wasn't really that easy.

"It was hard at first, just because it's a different game, a lot bigger block," Foecke said. "But you know through practice and two-a-days and getting used to everyone, it's been going really well."

It went well enough that Foecke was in the starting lineup to start the season. She moved right in and started the first few matches this season at rightside hitter, but that didn't work out quite how Cook had hoped.

A couple of weeks into the season, Cook moved Foecke to left side even though she was a middle all through high school.

Foecke didn't care. She was willing to play wherever the Huskers needed her.

"It's just whatever the team needs," Foecke said. "If the left side is where I need to be at for the team, then that's where I need to be. But I do love the left side."

Like most freshmen, Foecke has had her ups and downs. She had a career high 22 kills in a win at then-No. 1 Penn State earlier this season, but then was shut down the next night in a loss at Ohio State.

"It's certainly an adjustment to go from such a big win against Penn State to playing Ohio State the next night," Foecke said. "I think you just have to go after it every single night if you want to win in the Big Ten."

Foecke had another slow night in a win over Michigan State the next week, but then led the team with 18 kills in the next match against Michigan.

Cook would like to see more consistency from the freshman, but that's not easy.

"It's just like Nebraska running backs don't run for 200 yards every week. It's tough," Cook said. "Teams are going to pick and choose how they're going to defend you and Ohio State's game plan was to stop Foecke."

2015 Schedule

Nebraska Invite at Devaney Center

Aug. 28 Tulsa	W, 3-0	(1-0)
Aug. 29 Grand Canyon	W, 3-0	(2-0)
Aug. 29 Pittsburgh	W, 3-1	(3-0)

Vertical Challenge at Austin, Texas

Sept. 4 Texas	L, 3-2	(3-1)
Sept. 5 Oregon	W, 3-2	(4-1)

Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center

Sept. 11 UC Davis	W, 3-0	(5-1)
Sept. 12 USF	W, 3-0	(6-1)
Sept. 12 Georgia Tech	W, 3-0	(7-1)

Sept. 15 at Creighton	W, 3-0	(8-1)
Sept. 19 at Iowa State	W, 3-1	(9-1)
Sept. 23 at Iowa	W, 3-0	(10-1)
Sept. 26 Iowa	W, 3-0	(11-1)
Oct. 2 at Penn State	W, 3-2	(12-1)
Oct. 3 at Ohio State	L, 3-2	(12-2)
Oct. 7 Mich. State	W, 3-1	(13-2)
Oct. 10 Michigan	W, 3-1	(14-2)
Oct. 16 at Northwestern	W, 3-0	(15-2)
Oct. 17 at Illinois	W, 3-0	(16-2)

Oct. 23 Minnesota	7 p.m.
Oct. 24 Wisconsin	7 p.m.

Oct. 30 Rutgers	7 p.m.
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Oct. 31 Maryland	7 p.m.
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Nov. 4 at Purdue	6 p.m.
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Nov. 7 at Indiana	6 p.m.
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Nov. 11 at Mich. State	6 p.m.
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Nov. 14 at Maryland	6 p.m.
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Nov. 18 Indiana	7 p.m.
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Nov. 21 at Michigan	6:30 p.m.
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Nov. 25 Illinois	7 p.m.
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Nov. 28 Penn State	7 p.m.
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Dec. 4-5 NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds TBD	
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Dec. 11-12 NCAA Regionals - TBD	
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Dec. 17 NCAA Semis at Omaha	
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Dec. 19 NCAA Final at Omaha	
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NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Mitch Otto

BUILDING THE STUDENT SECTION

John Cook, like any coach, is always looking for anything that will give his team an advantage. Cook has been working for several years on how best to develop a student section at the Devaney Sports Center.

It has worked at least to some degree. Cook said they have sold 900 student season tickets, but they don't all show up for every match. Still, that 900 is the most in the Big Ten by far.

The problem as Cook sees it is that the student section is divided up into three groups. He would like to see them all together, but then some fans with court-side tickets and other donors would have to move.

But there is at least one good thing about having the student section split.

"The advantage is we do have student sections on both sides," Cook said. "We flip in volleyball so that's kind of good. What I'd like to see is them having more coordinated efforts, cheering back and forth and working together."

Cook has suggested that they take some of the leaders in the student section on the road to places like Purdue or Illinois so they can get an idea of things that other student sections do in the way of coordinated cheers and such.

"We have to get them coordinated more so they feel more emotionally connected and they can really get after some of those other teams," Cook said.

MOVING ON UP

The Huskers moved up to third in the AVCA Ratings on Oct. 12. Cook said he didn't feel like he had the third-best team in the country because he sees all the things the Huskers need to improve.

Plus, the Big Ten just gets tougher and tougher as the season goes along. If a team is going to survive, it has to keep getting better.

"We have a big challenge ahead of us," Cook said. "I'm looking to see if our team can take it up another notch. I think as you go through the season you



have to take it up another notch every week. We're working through the mental part of it and working to get better each week instead of just kind of going on cruise control and trying to survive the season."

There really can be no cruise control in the Big Ten. Everybody is good. That's why unexpected things happen like Northwestern upsetting Penn State on Oct. 10.

"Like I've said, everybody is good in the Big Ten. You're seeing all these whacky matches," Cook said. "Penn State got caught on the second night after a tough match on Friday night. That's what makes it so tough in this conference. How your schedule falls out really impacts your chance to do well in this conference."

Those back-to-back matches are tough. Some teams don't have as many as others.

"If you look at Michigan, they only have one Friday-Saturday," Cook said. "We have four. I don't know what some of these other schools have, but back-to-backs are tough, especially on the

road."

NO ADVICE FOR COACH RILEY

Cook didn't have any advice for Nebraska football coach Mike Riley after his team lost four of its first six games, all coming on the opponent's final offensive play of the game.

"There's nothing to say," Cook said. "Just get in Sunday and get to work. Keep working and trust what you're doing."

Cook saw his team go through some struggles last year when the Huskers lost a number of tough five-set matches. He said he hopes those losses built some character and mental toughness in his team.

"That's our job as coaches, to keep building their confidence whether we're losing or winning.

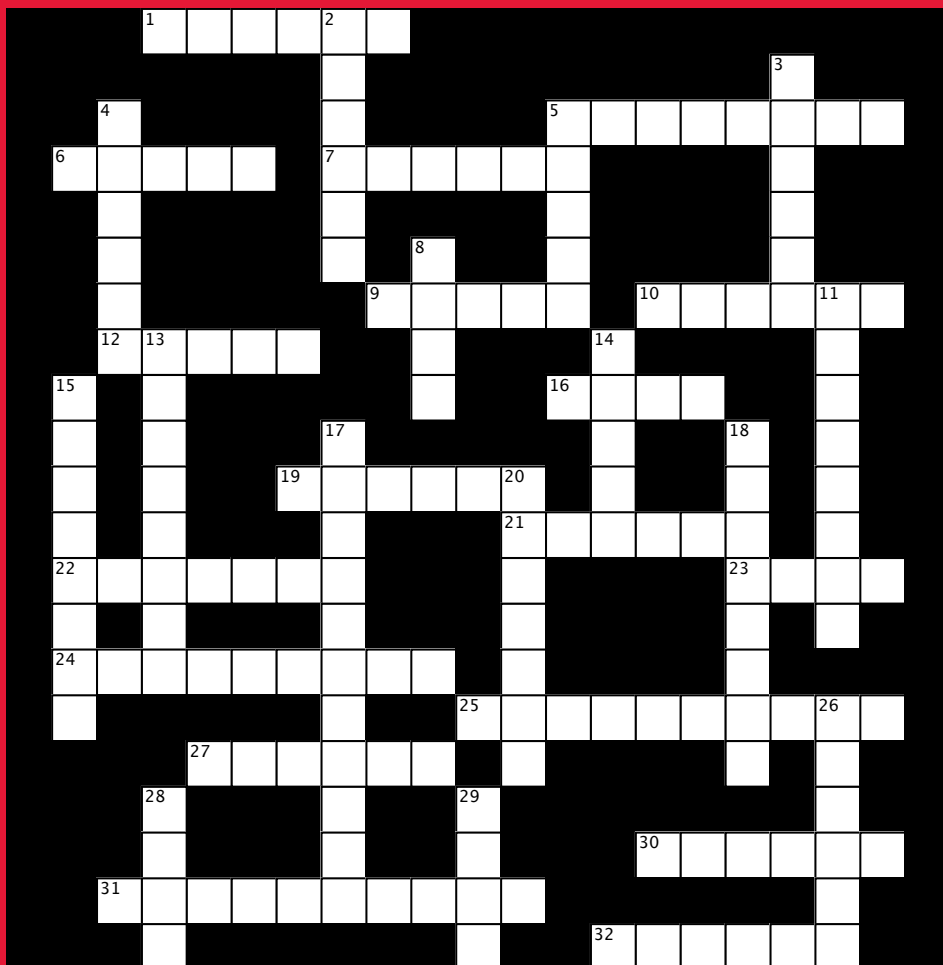
Cook said. "I've been on these guys since January talking about losing to Ohio State at home and some of the other tough matches we lost.

"The big thing is you have to get a big win somewhere to validate everything and get your confidence."

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

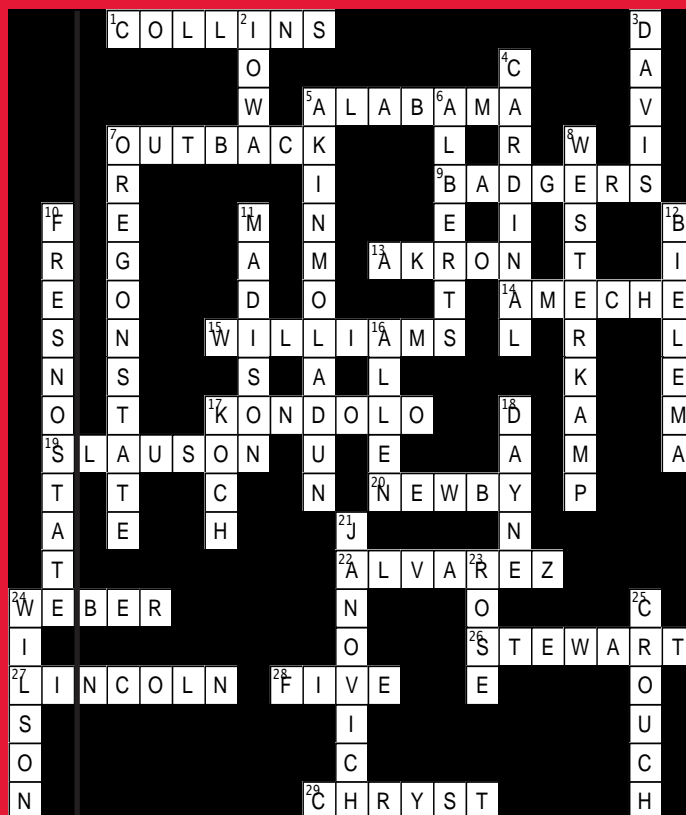
1. Wears No. 11 (defense)
5. Northwestern nickname
6. Wears No. 5 (defense)
7. Oct. 31 opponent
9. Bowl game after 2013 season
10. Defensive end who made 1st career start vs. Wisconsin
12. Linebacker with 4 pass breakups vs. Wisconsin
16. Wears No. 14 (defense)
19. 2001 Walter Camp Player of the Year
21. 2017 non-conference opponent
22. Nov. 14 opponent
23. Greg McMullen's home state
24. Quarterbacks coach
25. Maliek Collins' hometown
27. Wears No. 11 (offense)
30. Andy Janovich's hometown
31. Northwestern head coach
32. NU's second Heisman Trophy winner



DOWN

2. Northwestern school color
3. Defensive coordinator
4. Ex-Husker defensive back now with Miami Dolphins
5. Wears No. 49 (defense)
8. Wears No. 10 (defense)
11. Vincent Valentine's home state
13. Northwestern campus location
14. Had 41-yard touchdown catch vs. Wisconsin
15. Leading tackler vs. Wisconsin
17. 2016 non-conference opponent
18. Had 55-yard touchdown run vs. Wisconsin
20. Bowl game after 2014 season
26. Wears No. 10 (offense)
28. Drew Brown's older brother and former NU kicker
29. Ex-Husker running back now with Oakland Raiders

OCTOBER 24 PUZZLE



OCTOBER 17 SOLUTION

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